



The Phoenix Flame



Music for life | Brass is Best | Age no problem

January 2025

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Message from David Watson, Musical Director, Phoenix Brass

I do hope you have had a wonderful Christmas, and may I give you my best wishes for 2025.

I would like to thank the players for all their hard work leading up to the festive period. I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who has supported Phoenix Brass band throughout 2024. The tireless work of the small 'Friends of Phoenix' Committee, 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 during 2024 and our thoughts are with their families.

During 2024, 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 have travelled the large area our engagements have covered. I would like to thank them most sincerely for all their hard work in making another successful year for the Band.

I have often said in my Reports for the Flame how much it costs to run the Band for a year, in addition to payment for using Froxfield War Memorial Hall which is very important to the band for rehearsals, storage of instruments, spare uniforms and our music library which now exceeds a 1,000 sets of musical pieces. On top of that, there is insurance for all the instruments, uniforms and music, occasional repairs to instruments and the purchase of new instruments or uniform jackets as needed. Unfortunately, we cannot raise the amount of money required by the Band from just playing at engagements. How I wish we could. So, the players pay Membership Fees, the Friends of Phoenix Committee organises fund raising events on top of which we have the two Grand Draws in the Summer and at Christmas. Both are extremely important to us so thank you to everyone who supported the two Draws. The Friends of Phoenix Christmas Draw this year was particularly successful (please see later in this Flame).

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

I send you all my best wishes to you all for a peaceful and healthy New Year.

David

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.

Also, the Band Facebook www.facebook.com/PhoenixBrassBandFroxfield.

The Phoenix Flame
Friends of Phoenix

Bonus Ball Winners

| | | |
|----------------|---|----------------------------|
| August 2024 | - | Lynne Miles |
| September 2024 | - | Richard and Terri Fradgley |
| October 2024 | - | Roy Mason |
| November 2024 | - | Carol Silk |
| December 2024 | - | Ann Middleton |

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.

Friends of Phoenix Bonus Ball 2025 Renewal Fees

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

The 2025 Friends of Phoenix Bonus Ball fees fell due for renewal on 1 January 2025.

If you have not done so already could I please ask you to complete the Bonus Ball Application Form (on the last page of this Phoenix Flame) 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 also 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

2025 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.

Betty Walley

Friends of Phoenix Christmas Draw 2024

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.

£700 was raised from this year's Christmas Draw, including some donations. I am extremely grateful to those Members who kindly added donations to the cost of the tickets.

Our grateful thanks.

Betty Walley

| Prize No | Prize | Winner | Ticket number |
|----------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Baylis & Harding Slippers and Lotion | Linda c/o Jennie | 695 |
| 2 | Bottle of Brut | David Watson | 243 |
| 3 | Christmas Hamper | Ruth Roberts | 186 |
| 4 | Baylis & Harding for Men | Jill Brewitt | 756 |
| 5 | Cadbury Roses | Carl Roberts | 649 |
| 6 | Avon Hamper for Men | B Cope c/o Carl Roberts | 640 |
| 7 | Checked Blanket | David Levett | 136 |
| 8 | Bottle of Red Wine | Amanda Marchant | 427 |
| 9 | Botanica Candles in Jars | Linda c/o Jamie | 691 |
| 10 | Christmas Hamper | Janet Richardson | 500 |
| 11 | Avon Hamper for Children | Amanda Marchant | 429 |
| 12 | Vintage Champagne | Margaret Smith | 531 |
| 13 | Funky Noodle Voucher | R Giddings c/o Carl Roberts | 626 |
| 14 | Bottle of Brut | A Miles | 451 |
| 15 | Pink Gin Collection | Laura Ponting | 644 |
| 16 | Cuddly Toy | J Neathey | 654 |
| 17 | Chocolate Hamper | Gordon Rose | 516 |
| 18 | Scented Candles | Carol Creed | 362 |
| 19 | Celebration Chocolates | Phil | 109 |
| 20 | Baylis & Harding Spa Collection | Maureen Rolfe | 508 |
| 21 | Sparkling Wine | Helen Cowlan | 743 |
| 22 | Fuzzy Duck Collection | Camilla Walley | 240 |
| 23 | Milk Tray Chocolates | Eloise Brookes | 52 |
| 24 | Wine Hamper | Lynn Busby | 326 |
| 25 | Bottle of Brut | S Greenwood | 119 |
| 26 | McVitie's Victoria Biscuits | Lynn Busby | 327 |
| 27 | Christmas Hamper | R Giddings | 613 |
| 28 | Avon Hamper for Ladies | Scott W | 775 |

Friends of Phoenix Jumble Sale - October 2024



Thank you to everyone who supported the Friends of Phoenix Jumble Sale held in early October 2024 by donating items, helping, and clearing up on the day or coming to spend!

Froxfield War Memorial Hall was bursting at the seams with an assortment of clothes, shoes, toys, china, cutlery – in fact, anything you could imagine.

The event raised nearly £750 which will ultimately support the band.

Phoenix Brass Training Section



In November 2024, the Phoenix Brass Training Section held a Coffee Morning at Froxfield War Memorial Hall. Marilyn Mason, Leader of the Training Section, commented that "the Saturday morning rehearsals had 'paid off' and all the players and individual soloists did themselves proud!! Not all the soloists were photographed, but they were all wonderful. Thank you for the support from Main Band players who supported the new recruits, the audience for attending and for all the scrumptious cakes which were donated for the coffee break." The event raised £150 to support 'Wiltshire Treehouse', a charity for bereavement support for children and young people in Swindon and Wiltshire.

Phoenix Brass in Pictures



In November 2024, Phoenix Brass Band led the traditional Remembrance Sunday Parade with 4 Military Intelligence Battalion as Marlborough remembered the fallen. Representatives from many organisations and veterans marched from the High Street to the War Memorial to take part in the 11:00 commemorations and laying of red poppy wreaths. After the wreath laying, Phoenix Brass led the parade to the Remembrance Sunday Service at St Mary's Church.





In late November 2024, Phoenix Brass played carols and seasonal tunes at the late-night Christmas Shopping Extravaganza at Dobbies Garden Centre, Hungerford.

The Band was pleased to support Dobbies Garden Centre as they raised additional funds for their National Charity Partner, Teenage Cancer Trust. Christmas 2024 really got started in early December 2024.



On Saturday, 7 December 2024, in what has become a customary event in the band's diary, Phoenix Brass supported the Burbage Christmas Tree Sale and Market. Notwithstanding the impact of Storm Darragh which resulted in an extremely blustery and wet weekend, the players performed carols and seasonal tunes inside the warmth of All Saints Church, Burbage.



This was swiftly followed on Sunday, 8 December 2024 with the Band's Christmas Concert in Marlborough Town Hall, where the players were joined by The Bluebells, a local Female A Capella Choir. Despite the remnants of a stormy weekend, the audience enjoyed a mix of carols and festive tunes.





On Tuesday, 10 December 2024, despite a damp and cold evening, the band played a selection of carols and festive tunes for the residents of Brendoncare Nursing Home at their annual Christmas Concert arranged by the Friends of Brendoncare.

Afterwards, players enjoyed soup, mulled wine and a selection of homemade sausage rolls and mince pies.



On Thursday, 12 December 2024, Players returned to Kennet Gateway Club in Woodborough. They always look forward to the evening, playing a variety of festive tunes and Christmas carols to the delight of Club members.

Players 'dressed down' from their normal band attire, sporting a variety of Christmas and festive jumpers.



The Phoenix Flame

On Saturday, 14 December 2024, players went carolling in Marlborough High Street. The earlier damp weather gave way to a dry and sunny day with the High Street ringing out to the sounds of carols and festive tunes.





The following day, Sunday, 15 December 2024, Phoenix Brass presented an afternoon of Christmas music at the Walwyn Hall, Lambourn. The audience enjoyed a selection of seasonal music to get them into the festive spirit.

On Tuesday, 17 December 2024, the rain stopped just in time and, despite a chilly evening, Phoenix Brass played carols outside Froxfield War Memorial Hall.

This was followed by a short social evening, with refreshments provided by the Friends of Phoenix and their Grand Christmas Draw.



The last engagement for 2024 was "Brass and Carols" at The Tipple Inn, Collingbourne Ducis on Thursday, 19 December 2024.

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:

"Many thanks for a great concert, with best wishes from all at Walwyn Hall, Lambourn" – Walwyn Hall, Lambourn (December 2024)

"Brendoncare Froxfield enjoyed its annual Christmas concert courtesy of our very own village superstars the Phoenix Brass Band. It is always a pleasure to have the band come and play....." Brendoncare Nursing Home (December 2024)

".....it was the best Remembrance Day Parade and Band I have seen and heard for many years and please pass on my congratulations to the Band master and players...." – Remembrance Sunday 2024

"Once again, please pass on our grateful thanks to the band for coming and playing so brilliantly. Many people commented on how much they enjoyed listening to the band and how much they added to the atmosphere of what was a very successful fete" – PCC Collingbourne Ducis and Everleigh (September 2024)

"Thank you all so much for yesterday.....you were all so great and I hope I can think of a good excuse to get you here again soon if you will come" – Private 90th Birthday Party, Near Marlborough (August 2024)



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:

| | | |
|----------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Sunday, 4 May 2025 | Lambourn Vintage Machinery Society Spring Working | From 11.00am |
| Saturday, 21 June 2025 | Chaddleworth Fete | Timings to be confirmed |
| Saturday, 6 September 2025 | Collingbourne Ducis Church fete | 12 noon |
| Sunday, 7 September 2025 | Pewsey Carnival Opening Church Service | 6.45pm |



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

| | | |
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| | | |
|--|--|--|

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.....