



The Phoenix Flame



Music for life | Brass is Best | Age no problem

August 2026

In this issue:

- MD Message
- Bonus Ball Winners
- Friends of Phoenix Membership
- Ink Cartridges!
- Training Section
- Obituary - Basil King
- Testimonials
- Phoenix Brass Needs You!
- Phoenix Brass in Pictures
- "Concert of Change"
- Coffee Morning
- Dates for your Diary



QR Code for
easyfundraising



Message from David Watson, Musical Director, Phoenix Brass

Well, here we are in the second half of 2026. Where has the first six months gone? I do hope that you are all well and managing to cope with the extreme heat that we are all currently enduring.

The band is now nearing the end of the summer schedule of engagements, having started with the Lambourn Vintage Machinery Society Spring Working Show way back at the start of May. It seems so long ago, when the weather was much different to what we are experiencing now. Since then, players have travelled far and wide across the local area and added two new bandstand venues in Chippenham and Cirencester to their itinerary.

It is unbelievable that very soon the sounds of Christmas carols and seasonal tunes will float across Froxfield as the players prepare for the Christmas schedule of engagements. Again, the band is fortunate to have a number of engagements, some being private bookings. A list of the public Christmas engagements appears later in this edition of the Flame.

You will note from a later article in this Flame that the Friends of Phoenix has seen a big decline in membership, due to the passing of some members, some deciding not to renew for personal reasons and some probably forgetting to renew at the start of the year. The Friends are an important asset to the band and contribute towards the costs and general upkeep of running a brass band. So, if you have not renewed for 2026, wish to join the Friends or know any friends and neighbours who may wish to join then the relevant forms appear at the end of this Flame. It is only £5 a year!

On a final note and not least, I would like to thank all the players for their hard work at rehearsals and at the various engagements. They are all volunteers, give up their own time and travel to engagements at their own expense - so a MASSIVE thank you.

I hope to see you at some of the upcoming engagements and thank you also for your support of the band which is so very much appreciated.

Best wishes,
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.**

Friends of Phoenix

Bonus Ball Winners

January 2026	-	Darren Scragg
February 2026	-	Steve Hutchins
March 2026	-	David and Irene Watson
April 2026	-	Steve Hutchins
May 2026	-	No winner - ball number not sold
June 2026	-	Jenny Taylor
July 2026	-	Darren Scragg

There are four unsold numbers available should anyone like to purchase a new or additional bonus ball. Just £12 a year and if your number is the first bonus ball drawn 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.

The Bonus Ball started back in November 1995 and was first organised by the late Cyril Palmer (Tug's father). Over the 30 years it has been running the Bonus Ball has raised circa £9,000 for band funds. So, this is a really good way to support Phoenix Brass.

Thank you for your support.

2026 Friends of Phoenix Membership

As I mentioned in the last Phoenix Flame, membership numbers have declined considerably over the past few years, due to some of our 'Friends' no longer being with us, but also many not renewing their membership.

From its peak of more than 100 members, just 30 people have renewed their membership for 2026.

I appreciate that for many members their decision may be based on personal factors. However, for those who may have just forgotten, 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.

After all it is only £5 a year, or 40p per month, which I am sure you will agree is really good value.

The opportunity has been taken to include a Membership Form, and 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.

A BIG thank you.

Betty Walley
Chair of Friends of Phoenix



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. More than £500 has been raised for the band since the cartridge recycling started.

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.

Phoenix Brass Training Section



The Training Section of Phoenix Brass has met regularly every Saturday as usual for the past months and numbers have remained stable with one new trainee from Froxfield and another who was attracted by a Facebook advertisement.

Playing has improved amazingly well with five of the players regularly coming along to Main Band rehearsals. The improvement is obviously due to the hard work of the players but also to the dedication of the 'helpers' who give up their Saturday mornings every week to instruct, chivvy and coax the correct notes from all those players' instruments. [A bit of bribery too sometimes!!].



So, many, many thanks to Richard Mascall, Phil, Steve Whatley, Carl, and Terri and Emma who comes when she can. It is often a very thankless and frustrating task but the rewards can be very pleasing!

We are now all looking forward to playing at the Band Coffee Morning in Marlborough Town Hall (5 September 2026) and to our visit to play at Brendoncare Nursing Home on 3 October 2026.

Marilyn.

Obituary - Basil "Baz" King

It was with great sadness to hear of the passing of Basil King on 25 June 2026.

Basil, or 'Baz' as he was known to many, formerly lived in Burbage and played cornet with Phoenix Brass some twenty years ago. On occasions, Baz would also help conduct the band.

Baz served in the 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars from 1946 and on amalgamation in 1958 the Queen's Royal Irish Hussars Band until 1969.

He also had the great honour of playing a cavalry trumpet to sound the reveille from above the west door during the St Paul's Cathedral funeral service for Sir Winston Churchill on 30 January 1965.

On retirement Baz became an In-Pensioner at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, where his funeral took place on 21 July 2026 in the Wren Chapel at the Royal



There will be some players still with Phoenix Brass today that will remember Baz with great fondness.
Rest in peace Baz, from us all in Phoenix Brass.



Phoenix Brass receives many comments of thanks and appreciation following engagements. Here are two recent comments:

"... thank you all so much for attending our village fete. It was a spectacular sightseeing all the band members together – we've never had such a grand turn out. Phoenix Brass certainly took centre stage and made the fete a very special occasion so thank you all very much. I hope the rest of the summer is successful and that you all manage to enjoy some rest periods too" – Enford Fete Committee (June 2026)

"Dear Phoenix Brass Band, thank you for helping to make Savernake Fun Run 2026 a success. Your contribution is very much appreciated. best wishes, St Katharine's PTA" – St Katharine's School PTA (June 2026)

"Thank you so much for a lovely programme and concert. I used to live up in the north with lots of brass bands and Phoenix Brass has a great sound" - Lady in audience at the Abbey Grounds Bandstand, Cirencester

"Please thank everyone who played this afternoon - we had an amazing time and the residents have said how much they enjoyed themselves" - Merlin Court Care Home (July 2026)



PHOENIX BRASS NEEDS YOU!

 Do you play a brass or percussion instrument?

 Would you like to play with a community brass band based in Froxfield, Wiltshire?

WE WELCOME PLAYERS OF ALL AGES AND MIXED ABILITIES INTO THE BAND-ROOM.

CURRENTLY, WE ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN **PLAYERS FOR:**

- Back row cornet
- 2nd tenor horn
- Flugelhorn
- EE flat bass
- BB flat bass

 **ALSO**
A TUNED PERCUSSION
PLAYER WHO CAN ALSO
PLAY KIT WHEN NEEDED



 www.phoenixbrassband.co.uk

 Contact David Watson 01672 841315

Do you know anyone who would like to learn to play a brass instrument AND join. and play with a friendly community band in Froxfield, Wiltshire?

Phoenix Brass is currently looking for players to join the Main Band:

Back row cornet
2nd tenor horn
Flugelhorn
EE flat bass
BB flat bass and
A tuned percussion player who can also play kit when required.

We always welcome new and young players, whether you have played before and wish to rekindle that love of brass and music, or have never picked up an instrument.

We offer a welcoming environment for players to perform and enjoy music making together.

We have a Training Section that caters for all ages and abilities. It is never too late to start!

Rehearsals are on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at Froxfield War Memorial Hall, from 7.30pm to 9.30pm, and the Training Section meets at the Hall on Saturday mornings from 10am.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Please contact David Watson, Musical Director, in confidence on 01672 841315. www.phoenixbrassband.co.uk or via the Band Facebook.

Phoenix Brass in Pictures

Lambourn Vintage Machinery Society Spring Working Show
Sunday, 3 May 2026

Players entertained the public at the Lambourn Spring Working show for another year. This event usually starts the band's summer season of engagements.



John Coles Park Bandstand, Chippenham
Sunday, 31 May 2026

Phoenix Brass performed in the beautiful surroundings of the John Coles Park Bandstand in Chippenham on Sunday. Thank you to everyone who enjoyed the lovely weather and came to listen





**Enford Summer Fete
Saturday, 13 June 2026**

Phoenix Brass played at the Enford Summer Fete on Saturday which was a new venue for the band. Thankfully, the weather had changed for the better with sunny, albeit a little blustery, weather on the day.

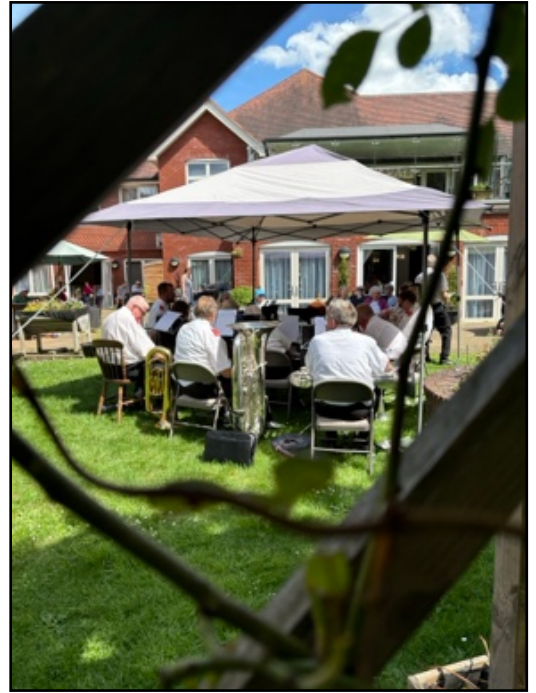
Organised by the Enford Community Fund, players entertained the public with a varied music programme to suit all tastes.



**Froxfield Beer and Music Festival 2026
Saturday, 20 June 2026**

Phoenix Brass Band played at the annual Froxfield Village Beer and Music Festival on the village green.





Savernake View Care Home
Sunday, 21 June 2026
Savernake View Care Home in Marlborough made Phoenix Brass feel very welcome during a mini concert for residents and their families. Players braved the hot weather to play to residents who themselves were joined by relations in the rear garden.



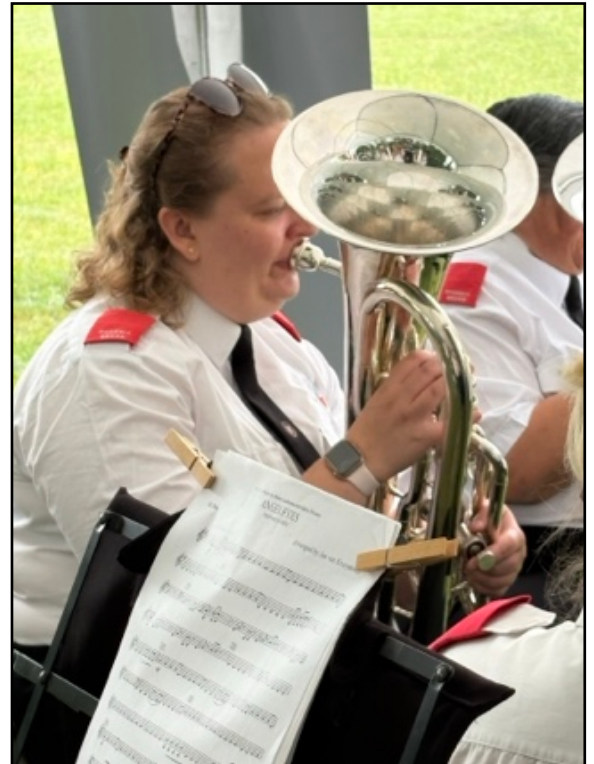


Savernake Fun Run Saturday, 27 June 2026

Phoenix Brass played at the Savernake Fun Run as runners pounded their way through the scenic surrounds of Savernake Forest on a 3K and/or 10K route helping to raise funds for St Katharine's School.

This was the sixth year that the Savernake Fun Run had taken place, and a first for the band to perform at the event.

It was an early start for the musicians than they are usually accustomed to. They played three sessions, the first at 8.30am ahead of the 10K warm up.

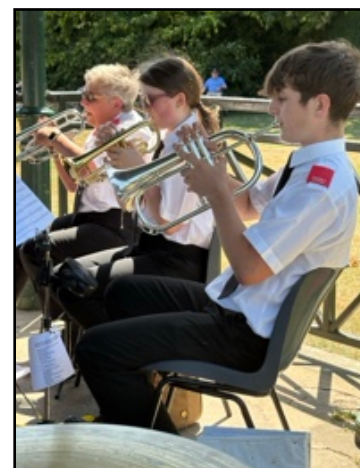


The Phoenix Flame



Abbey Grounds Bandstand,
Cirencester
Sunday, 12 July 2026

It was an extremely hot afternoon but a gentle breeze kept the players cool as they entertained the public with a varied programme of music at the Abbey Grounds Bandstand in Cirencester on Sunday afternoon.



The Phoenix Flame



Merlin Court Care Home, Marlborough

Saturday, 18 July 2026

Residents at Merlin Court Care Home in Marlborough were treated to an afternoon of music and memories when Phoenix Brass visited this afternoon.

The mini concert came as a direct response from the Well-Being Co-ordinator. Residents gathered to enjoy a mixed programme of music. The event coincided with a resident and his wife celebrating their 62nd wedding anniversary. The band played "Congratulations" to help them mark their special day.



A brass band visiting a care home is a way to engage residents, stimulate memory, and lift spirits and the visit by Phoenix Brass this afternoon did exactly that, with many residents joined by staff singing and clapping in tune with many of the musical pieces.

A cornet solo performance by Anthony (Tug) Palmer and a cornet duet by Eloise Brooks and Emma Turner-Horn received much applause from the residents and staff alike.

Afterwards, Tracey, the Well-Being Co-ordinator, said

"Please thank everyone very much for us, we had an amazing time, with the residents saying how much they enjoyed themselves".

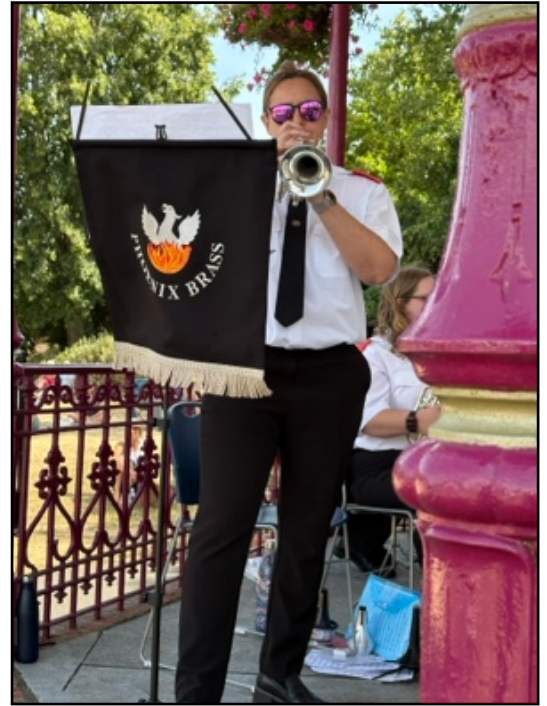
The Phoenix Flame

Victoria Park Bandstand, Newbury
Sunday, 2 August 2026

A hot and sunny afternoon with a large audience was the perfect setting for Phoenix Brass as players performed in Victoria Park Bandstand on Sunday.

Despite the heat, it was great to see so many people enjoying the musical pieces.

A big thank you to everyone who came and supported us.



“Concert of Change” - Sunday, 17 May 2026



Marlborough Town Hall was filled with the sound of live brass music as players from Phoenix Brass performed at their ‘Concert of Change’ which was also being recorded for a new band CD.

The audience enjoyed a very mixed programme of music including two solos, with Emma Turner-Horn playing ‘The Nightingale’ and later joining Chris Cowlan in a duet playing ‘Eine Kleine Oompah Musik’.

Both performances received rapturous applause.

For the second half, players changed from black uniform jackets and looked resplendent in their newly purchased red uniform jackets.

With the audience requesting an encore, Phoenix Brass got hands and feet moving with firm favourite, ‘Hootenanny’.

It was the first Concert for Gracie Croysdill from the Phoenix Brass Training Section playing second cornet. Phoenix Brass would like to extend thanks to their guest players, Paul from Swindon Brass, Ed from Ocean Brass and Steve Rogers.

The band would also like to thank Chris, the ‘technician’, for giving up his Sunday and bringing all his recording kit.





A vibrant poster for a Phoenix Brass Band Coffee Morning. At the top, the title 'PHOENIX BRASS BAND' is in large, bold, black letters, with 'Coffee Morning' in a large, red, cursive font below it. A red banner with white text reads 'joined by The Training Section'. Below this, five band members (three men and two women) are illustrated playing brass instruments (trumpets, tuba, and trombone). They are wearing red jackets with black collars and white shirts. In front of them are five blue banners with the Phoenix Brass logo (a phoenix rising from flames) and the text 'PHOENIX BRASS'. The background is cream-colored with red and yellow bunting and musical notes. At the bottom, a large white cup of coffee with the Phoenix Brass logo is on the left. To the right is a cake stall with various cakes and a chocolate swirl cake. A red circular badge on the bottom right says 'Everyone welcome! Bring your friends!'. The event details are in the center: 'SATURDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER 2026 MARLBOROUGH TOWN HALL 10 am to 12 noon'. A list of activities is on the bottom left: 'Coffees, teas and cakes', 'Cake stall and brick a brac stall', and 'Plus Late Summer Draw' (with a raffle ticket icon).

PHOENIX BRASS BAND

Coffee Morning

joined by
The Training Section

**SATURDAY,
5 SEPTEMBER 2026**
MARLBOROUGH TOWN HALL
10 am to 12 noon

-  Coffees, teas and cakes
-  Cake stall and
brick a brac stall
-  Plus Late
Summer Draw

*Everyone
welcome!
Bring your
friends!*



Dates For Your Diary

2026 'Public' Engagement

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, 30 August 2026	Wilton Windmill Family Open Day	Playing 1pm until c 3.30pm
Saturday, 5 September 2026	Band Coffee Morning and Mini Concert, Marlborough Town Hall Various stalls, including bric-a-brac, cakes	10am to 12 noon
Saturday, 3 October 2026	Mini Concert at Brendoncare by the Training Section	11am to 12 noon
Sunday, 8 November 2026	Marlborough Remembrance Sunday Parade and Church Service	10.15am
Saturday, 5 December 2026	Annual Burbage Christmas Tree Sale	Timings to be confirmed
Sunday, 6 December 2026	Christmas Concert at The Walwyn Hall, Lambourn	2.30pm
Sunday, 13 December 2026	Band Christmas Concert Marlborough Town Hall	2.30pm
Tuesday, 15 December 2026	Carols around the Christmas Tree, Froxfield War Memorial Hall	7.15pm
Thursday, 17 December 2026	Brass and carols at the Tipple Inn, Collingbourne Ducis	7.30pm
Saturday, 19 December 2026	Christmas carols in Marlborough High Street	10am onwards



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 fundraising, 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.....

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

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.....