



# The PHOENIX FLAME



May 2018

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## 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



**STOP PRESS.....Skittles evening see last page for details**

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

We are into May already and the weeks seem to fly pass, maybe it is because we all have a lot to do, just like the band. As a rule the first four months of the year is spent getting music ready for the summer season but this year we have had to prepare for two major concerts and a half a concert.

The first concert was held in Marlborough Town Hall with the very accomplished Cromwell Singers and, in front of a full house, both band and choir played their part in producing a super concert.

There were rehearsals during the afternoon and Betty Walley and her helpers produced a wonderful tea for around 95 people both singers and players were very thankful.

The other concert was held in St Lawrence Church, Hungerford where the band played a varied programme of music which included two solos by Claire Knowles who played "I Don't Know How To Love Him" and by Steve Rogers who performed "The Wind Beneath My Wings". The whole programme was well received by the audience with many kind remarks passed onto the players. We were all treated to cream teas during the interval thanks to Chris Buck and her helpers.

The half concert was given in Froxfield Village Hall at the Friends AGM. The AGM used to be held on a Thursday evening just before band rehearsal but was only attended by band players and the Friends of Phoenix Committee. Some may say it was a waste of time but I think it was successful since fifteen people attended the meeting. It was also agreed to increase the membership fee to £5 per year.

The training band needed a single Bflat Bass at a cost of £1100. Marilyn Mason applied for a grant of £500 towards the cost which was successful and the remaining cost was met by the band fund and Friends of Phoenix funds. The bass was presented to Jamie Greenwood at a concert given by the Training Band in Froxfield Village Hall which I am pleased to say attracted a full house. So, both the main band and training band have already had a busy time.

It is a shame that the Lambourn Spring Working has been cancelled because of soft ground. We always look to that engagement as the start of our summer season, a nice day out and a good "blow".

Next up is the Band Dinner. This is a special event this year since the band celebrates its Silver Anniversary and I am hopeful that Mike Kilroy, the Band President, will be there.

I would like to thank you all for your support. It really does mean a lot to the band members.

David Watson

# Training Band Report

The first few months of 2018 have been good ones for the Training Band. We have had the pleasure of welcoming five new players who have swelled the ranks of the Bass, trombone and cornet sections and three total beginners from Marlborough who excitedly took their instruments home for the first time recently. There is still room for YOU if you'd like to give it a try!

On 21 April 2018 we celebrated the birthday of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II (and that of our MD, David Watson) with a red white and blue 'Talent Concert'. As well as the birthday celebrations it was an opportunity for the Training Band players to show off their many other talents in a non-competitive situation. And what a wonderful array of hidden talents came to light!! We had a First World War poem which was sensitively recited by Bill who was fully dressed in the appropriate uniform of the era and a splendid trombone and piano duet of The Acrobat played by Andrew and Oliver.

Cornet solos, a piano solo, our very own singing guitarist and even a dancing display from Pat and Barry were all thoroughly enjoyed by our audience, as were the ensemble pieces played by the band.

Congratulations must go to all the Band and soloists for entertaining us all so well. It was not a contest, they are all winners, but a concert to show what a talented bunch of musicians the Phoenix Brass Training Band consists of!!

Thanks must go to Brian, Steve, Terri and Helen who turn up every Saturday morning to teach, coax and encourage the new players. More help is always needed and you would be made most welcome if you ever felt you could spare a little time on a Saturday morning to help.

Thank you.

Marilyn Mason  
Training Band

Ed. A BIG THANK YOU to Marilyn for organising this most successful event for the budding brass players. Thank you!

## Why Should I learn to Play a Brass instrument?

**There are many benefits for taking up a musical instrument and brass is one of the best..... here are some of the benefits:**

- Enjoyment - playing music in a group is amazingly enjoyable and thoroughly rewarding
- Teamwork - by learning to play in a group you learn to work together to make music
- Concentration - playing music requires concentration, and learning to play in a group helps to develop concentration
- Confidence - you cannot hide if you are a brass player or percussionist, and playing in a friendly group is a great way of making friends and building confidence
- Tradition - The British Brass Band is a tradition dating back centuries, and groups like this help to continue that tradition
- Numeracy and logic - learning music is proven to assist in developing mathematical skills and logic skills
- Easy - it is surprisingly easy to make a sound from a brass instrument, and players can quickly grasp enough basic ability to play in a group
- Challenging - there is always a challenge, even for the best musicians in the world.

## Cringeworthy Joke.....

So a C, E-flat and G go into a bar. The bartender says, "sorry, but we don't serve minors." So E-flat leaves, and C and G have an open fifth between them. After a few drinks, the fifth is diminished and G is out flat. F comes in and tries to augment the situation, but is not sharp enough.

D comes in and heads for the bathroom saying, "Excuse me. I'll just be a second." Then A comes in, but the bartender is not convinced that this relative of C is not a minor. Then the bartender notices B-flat hiding at the end of the bar and says, "Get out! You're the seventh minor I've found in this bar tonight."

E-Flat comes back the next night in a three-piece suit with nicely shined shoes. The bartender says, "You're looking sharp tonight. Come on in, this could be a major development." Sure enough, E-flat soon takes off his suit and everything else, and is au natural.

Eventually C sobers up and realizes in horror that he's under a rest. C is brought to trial, found guilty of contributing to the diminution of a minor, and is sentenced to 10 years of D.S. without Coda at an upscale correctional facility.



The Phoenix Brass Training Band Display at the Marlborough Area Board Youth Activities Evening

## Youth Activities Exhibition Evening

To celebrate the opening of the new Community & Youth Centre in Marlborough the Area Board held a fair there in March 2018 with a youth theme. The Area Board offered each organisation represented at the fair the opportunity to bid up to £500 towards a planned project or upcoming expense. The funded projects were voted on by everyone attending the fair

The Phoenix Brass Training Band was invited to attend the youth fair and Marilyn Mason organised a display to promote Phoenix Brass.

A super display was erected showing the activities of the band. Thanks must go to Scott Granger for producing some attractive and informative leaflets and for his attendance to encourage people to vote for the Training Band.

The judges complemented the display and input on the night and awarded £500 to the Training Band towards a new small Bb instrument.

Thank you to Marilyn for all her hard work, to Scott Granger for his help on the night and to everyone who voted for the Training Band.

**IMPORTANT.....**new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) came into force from 25 May 2018 that replace the current Data Protection Act. The new regulations apply to all types of organisations, including Phoenix Brass Band. Your privacy is important to the Band and we want to communicate with you as players, parents and members of the Friends of Phoenix in a way which has your consent and which is in line with UK law on data protection. As a result of the change in the UK law, the Band now needs your consent to how we contact you. A form is enclosed. Please fill in the contact details you want us to use to communicate with you and return to David Watson or Richard Fradgley. Thank you.

## Friends of Phoenix

Thank you to those members who attended the Friends of Phoenix Annual General Meeting in April which was followed by a short concert by the band. The following were elected:

Chairman: B Walley

Treasurer: R Fradgley

Secretary: Vacant [although R Fradgley will combine the roles of Secretary/Treasurer for the time being]

Committee members: J Richardson, J Jarvis, B Adams

A proposal was received to increase the membership fee from £3.50 to £5 per annum with immediate effect and this was unanimously agreed at the meeting.

Chair's y Report at the Annual General Meeting:

*"I would like to welcome you all to our AGM and thank David for allowing us to hold our meeting before his Concert. The Friends of Phoenix has had another successful year raising funds to enable us to support the Band. Our Christmas Raffle was well supported and the night of the draw was very well attended and I hope enjoyed by everyone. The Quiz Evening we held in October 2017 was great. The Quiz Master, Matthew Hodgson, had us all racking our brains trying to work out the correct answers.*

*For the last ten years we have had a wonderful Committee but, as they say, all good things come to an end and today we will be saying goodbye to Carol Silk, Amanda Marchant, Beverly Silk, Mary Hillier and Eileen Horton. They have all done so much for the Friends of Phoenix and I am sure that we will see them at our concerts. I wish them well and say a huge thank you to them from me, the rest of the Committee and I am sure all the Band as well.*

*I must of course say thank you to all the members of Friends of Phoenix without your support our job would be much harder. Good luck to you all. I look forward to seeing you at our future events".*

Thank you for our continued support.

Betty Walley

Chair, Friends of Phoenix

### Lottery Winners



November 2017	-	Unsold ball
December 2017	-	Unsold ball
January 2018	-	David Hall
February 2018	-	Terri Fradgley
March 2018	-	Ann Wilkins

Congratulations, Charlie Rogers who recently passed his Grade 2 drum exam with a merit. Well done!



## Together for Springtime' – Phoenix Brass and The Cromwell Singers



Article courtesy of the Newbury weekly News, following the joint concert on Saturday, 10 March 2018:

“Saturday’s concert featuring Phoenix Brass and the Cromwell Singers was a splendid occasion. We were welcomed by David Watson, Musical Director of Phoenix Brass, who throughout the evening set a relaxed and informal atmosphere.

The band started the programme in high spirits with a vivacious and up-beat rendition of the popular march ‘Light of Foot’ by Carl Latann.

Accompanied by the band, soloist Adam Bayliss treated us to a most accomplished performance of the ‘Adagio’ from Rodrigo’s ‘Concierto de Aranjuez’, originally written for guitar. Conjuring a lovely warm tone from his flugelhorn, Adam Bayliss delighted the audience with his lyrical and expressive playing.

Conducted by their Musical Director, Sarah Cope, the choir performed three movements from ‘The Armed Man: A Mass For Peace’ by Karl Jenkins.

In the ‘Sanctus’ I was impressed by the choir’s crisp articulation, rhythmic precision and effective use of dynamics. The soprano voices soared beautifully in the ‘Hosannas’. A passionate rendition of the ‘Hymn Before Action’, full of foreboding, was powerful and dramatic.

In a captivating ‘Benedictus’, the choir contrasted the serene and exultant passages to great effect. They are very fortunate in their accompanist Daphne George who showed considerable expertise at the piano.

Both the choir and band brought a glorious range of colour to their lively, cheerful and enthusiastic performance of Borodin’s ‘Polovtsian Dances’. The choruses praising Khan Konchak, brimming with energy, were very exciting. The final chorus, with the choir singing their hearts out, was exhilarating.

The choir gave a superb rendition of ‘As Long As I Have Music’. Clearly music is very important to them. Throughout the concert I was impressed by the number of singers who kept in regular eye-contact with the conductor.

The band’s animated portrayal of the popular theme from the film ‘A Bridge Too Far’ was exciting, dramatic and full of life. Their rousing and high-spirited performance of ‘And All That Jazz’, from the musical ‘Chicago’, was magnificent.

We had all enjoyed a wonderful evening – congratulations to the Cromwell Singers and Phoenix Brass”.

The evening raised £250 for Christchurch Methodist Church, Marlborough.

# Phoenix Brass In Concert at St Lawrence Church, Hungerford

The Band was invited by Chris Buck to perform a Concert at St Lawrence Church, Hungerford on 29 April 2018 to help raise funds towards the Church Fabric Fund. The discovery of leaks attributed to rotten woodwork had resulted in the commencement of urgent repairs to the Church lead work. Fund raising efforts during 2017, including grants and the receipt of individual donations, has realised almost the full amount. However, the need to add a contingency of £19,500 to cover the replacement of the original lead and additional costs had increased the original figure to circa £32,000.

An audience of circa 70 people attended the Concert and complemented the band's smart uniform, appearance and playing. They thoroughly enjoyed the mixed repertoire of music and the individual solos by Claire Knowles and Steve Rogers who performed a flugelhorn solo, "I Don't Know How To Love Him" and a trombone solo "The Wind Beneath My Wings" respectively, which received rapturous applause.

As well as thanking David and the players, thanks must be extended to Chris Buck and her team who provided cream teas and a raffle.

Thank you to everyone who turned out on a rather cold afternoon to support the Band.



## Fund- Raising Table Top Sales

Table top sales in Marlborough (outside Superdrug) have been scheduled for the following dates (all Fridays):  
18 May 2018; 15 June 2018; 6 July 2018; 14 September 2018;  
5 October 2018 and 23 November 2018.

Times are 8.30am to circa 4.30pm

If anyone is willing to help for a couple of hours PLEASE contact Marilyn 01672 512634 or [marilyn1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:marilyn1@yahoo.co.uk)  
The bric-a-brac to sell and a chair to sit on will be provided!!

Phoenix Brass Band  
Grand Summer Draw

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Please return all monies,  
counterfoils and unsold  
tickets by 29th June 2018 at the latest

## Phoenix Brass Band GRAND SUMMER DRAW

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FIRST PRIZE: Wine Hamper  
Second Prize: Wine Hamper  
Plus Many Other Exciting Prizes

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Tickets 20p Each *Thank You for Your Support*

Draw to take place at the Hadcaf Concert at Froxfield Village Hall on Saturday, 7th July 2018  
Promoted by: Mr R Fradgley, 'You-Are-Here', 131 Pezay Road, Hungerford, Berkshire RG17 0AP  
Registered with Willshire Council (Reg No LN00000274) under the Gambling Act 2005  
Printed by: Printdomain Ltd, 107 High Street, Thurston, Rothwell, S Yorks Tel: 0800 0146 006

The Grand Summer Draw is to be held at the Hadcaf Concert on Saturday, 7 July 2018 in the grounds of Froxfield Village Hall. The success of the Summer Draw is vital and, as usual, we rely heavily on the goodwill of players and Friends of Phoenix members to sell tickets. Draw tickets are now available. Please could you return all monies, counterfoils and any unsold tickets to either David Watson or Richard Fradgley by 29 June 2018? This provides sufficient time to fold and prepare the tickets for the draw. Please contact David or Richard if you require any additional tickets

# Phoenix Brass Training Band in Pictures



Scott



Charlotte



David conducting the Training band



Zara



Tim



Hannah, Andrew and Oliver



Bill

Various pictures of performers at the Training Band Talent Concert

# Phoenix Brass in Pictures



David announcing the next musical piece during the Concert with the Cromwell Singers at Marlborough Town Hall

Sarah Cope, Director of the Cromwell Singers, preparing to conduct the choir



David conducting the band at the concert at St Lawrence Church, Hungerford

Many thanks indeed to Sarah Greenwood, Marilyn Mason, Stuart Hyatt and Steve Rogers for supplying photographs used in this edition of the Flame.



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



## Summer Engagements

Sunday, 9 June 2018

Froxfield Music Festival (Training Band), Froxfield Village Hall, time tbc

Saturday, 16 June 2018

Froxfield Village Hall Cleaning day from 12 noon

Sunday, 1 July 2018

Lambourn Church Fete, 2.30pm

Saturday, 7 July 2018

Hadcaf Concert in grounds of Froxfield Village Hall and Grand summer Draw, 3pm

Sunday, 15 July 2018

Church & School Fete, St Mary's Church, Cemetery Road, Bibury, time tbc

Sunday, 22 July 2018

Victoria Park Band Stand, Newbury, 3pm

Saturday, 1 September 2018

Church Fete, Froxfield Village Hall and Green, time tbc

Sunday, 9 September 2018

Pewsey Opening Carnival Service, 6.30pm

Sunday, 23 September 2018

Pewsey Closing Carnival Service, 6.30pm

## STOP PRESS.....Skittles Evening

Please join us for a fun skittles evening on Saturday 23 June 2018 at Froxfield War Memorial Hall. Please arrive by 7.15pm at the latest to enable a prompt start at 7.30pm.

Ticket prices, which include supper, are £4 per person and £2.50 for under 14's. Soft drinks will be on sale throughout the evening.

To enable us to know how many we are catering for please purchase your tickets from Helen (07887 688795) or Liane (07896 711474) by Saturday 16 June 2018.



**And finally.....**.....from Marilyn Mason:

Thought For the Day / Week

Stephen Hawking ..... *"However difficult life may be, there is always something you can do and succeed at"*