



The PHOENIX FLAME

www.phoenixbrassband.co.uk



April 2019

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A Message from David Watson, Musical Director, Phoenix Brass



I was hoping to be able to write about a magnificent Concert with the band and the wonderful Cromwell Singers.

I was so pleased the Concert went well with a very good audience and my thanks must go to Anthony Palmer who conducted the Band for me in my absence. We had spent a lot of time working on the programme and preparing for the Concert since Christmas so I would like to express my grateful thanks to the players for all their hard work.

We now look forward to the start of our summer programme. I always think that it starts with the Spring Working at Lambourn so if you are attending the event then please do come over and say "Hello".

Ed. David was unfortunately taken unwell on the morning of the Concert and taken by ambulance to the Great Western Hospital, Swindon, where he remained until Monday evening. He is resting and recuperating well and is now back at the helm with baton in hand conducting the Band again.

We all send him our best wishes.

Training Band Report from Marilyn Mason, Training Band Director

The Training Band is flourishing with 29 on the 'players' list.

At the moment we are practising in two groups, the 'Beginners' and the 'Training' sections. We have occasional practises together and I hope to combine the two groups permanently soon.



Highlight of the pre-Easter term was our 'Pancake Morning' when a combined playing session was rounded off by us all consuming mountains of pancakes with sugar, lemon, and chocolate spread. The pancakes were made by Helen and Gloria and it was a heroic task to keep supplying more and more pancakes to the outstretched plates!

The Training Band will be playing at the Froxfield Music Festival on Saturday, 8 June 2019.

The Festival is growing in size and popularity and since its small beginnings years ago by Pat and Barry, the Training Band has had the honour of being its opening musical item.

I would like to invite you all to the Training Band 'Round the World' Concert with a Twist! on Saturday, 22 June 2019 at Froxfield War Memorial Hall, between 10.30am and 12 noon. Come and guess the nationality of our musical pieces while enjoying coffee and cake. Watch out for more details nearer the time!



Finally, I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to Brian, Terri, Richard and Emily. They all deserve medals for their endless patience and good humour during the Training Band sessions, not forgetting Hannah who willingly guides and encourages the 'little people' for the 'beginners' session and goes on to play with the Training Band.

Friends of Phoenix

Thank you to those members who attended the Friends of Phoenix Annual General Meeting earlier this month. The following were elected:

Chairman: B Walley

Treasurer: R Fradgley

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

Committee members: B Adams, D Dolton, J Jarvis

Chair's Report at the Annual General Meeting:

"First of all I would like to thank David and Phoenix Brass for allowing us to hold our meeting before the band rehearsal.

Another year has passed and because of the support of our members we have again been able to help the Band. Our thanks to everyone who either attended or contributed in some way to our fund raising events. These included a quiz sheet, a coffee morning in Burbage and our Christmas Draw. Proceeds from these events enabled us to buy necessary things for the Band. Thank you all.

Due to family commitments, Janet Richardson had to leave our Committee. We want to thank her for everything she has done and wish her well. Denise Dolton has kindly agreed to be co-opted on to the Committee. She is a former member so it is good to have her back with us again in this hardworking team. Thank you all.

There are lots of concerts / fetes booked for the summer and I look forward to seeing as many of our members as possible.

Lastly, thank you to David and Phoenix brass for all their time and commitment which means that we are all able to enjoy listening to them play".

Thank you for our continued support.

Betty Walley

Chair, Friends of Phoenix

2019 Membership Fees

LAST REMINDER.....the Friends of Phoenix membership fees were due on 1 January 2019. There are a few members that may have inadvertently forgotten to renew their membership for 2019. The opportunity has been taken to include a Membership Form for your completion and return if you would like to renew for another year.

The support of the Friends of Phoenix is invaluable to the Band and helps towards the purchase of new music, uniforms and new instruments when required. The annual fee is £5.00 per person.

Lottery Winners

| | | |
|---------------|---|--------------|
| January 2019 | - | Unsold |
| February 2019 | - | Unsold |
| March 2019 | - | Jenny Taylor |



There are still some unsold numbers available should anyone like to purchase a new or additional bonus balls. 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! Please contact Marilyn Mason, 01672 512634, for further details.

How well do you know your onions.....or in this case, your music?

See how you do against these questions, most related to brass banding, and how we know what to do when the Conductor starts waving a hand or a stick.

It's just a matter of time.....

- 1) 4/4 is how many crotchet beats in a bar
- 2) 4/4 is how many quaver beats in a bar
- 3) 2/4 is how many SEMI-quaver beats in a bar

Finally [harder]:

- 4) 6/8 is 6 quaver [i.e. 2 dotted crotchet] notes in a bar.....

So, unless the music is very slow, or the conductor has very fast-moving arms he/she will "beat" 6/8 in a count of ?

Volume and speed control.....

What is meant by:

- 5) pp
- 6) ff: [trombone default volume !]
- 7) Crescendo
- 8) Meno mosso

What goes where.....?

- 9) Which brass band instruments do NOT play in treble clef ?
- 10) Which brass band instruments play in the key of Eb ?
- 11) Which brass band instruments would you rarely or never find in an orchestra

Trivia Quiz

- 12) Unusually for a composer Gustav Holst played an instrument used in a brass band and orchestra, what was it?
- 13) In a part written for the violin what does "arco" mean?
- 14) Who is widely regarded as "The March King" [think USA]?

Thank you to Richard Mascall for submitting the above Quiz. Answers can be found on page 11.

Froxfield War Memorial Hall has taken delivery of a new photocopier since the previous one was becoming a little aged and problematical necessitating frequent visits by the engineer. It was also suggested by the engineer that the new photocopier would benefit from being in a drier and warmer environment. This required some thought and, ultimately, required a large number of metal filing cabinets that house the Band's music library, to be moved to accommodate the new photocopier.

A small team got to work early one Sunday morning and spent the day moving cabinets, fixing new shelving and generally clearing up the area behind the hall stage and the music room before taking delivery of the new photocopier.

The photos below show some of the removal process in action!



Concert with the Cromwell Singers

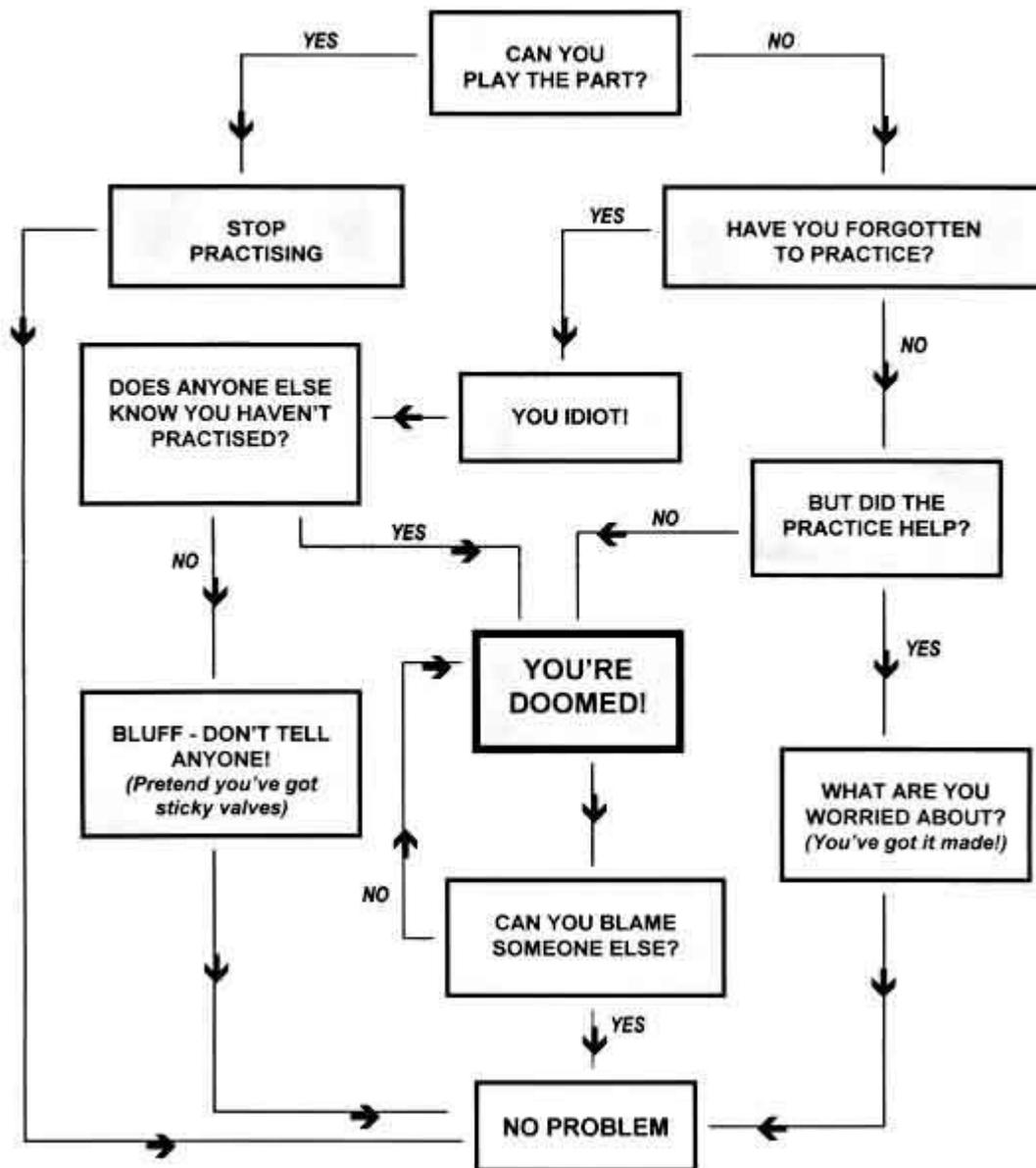
Phoenix Brass was joined by the Cromwell Singers at a joint Concert at St Lawrence Church, Hungerford on Mothering Sunday. This was another opportunity to hear the Cromwell Singers Community from Newbury, under Sarah Cope, Musical Director.

The Cromwell Singers are a choir with approximately 60 members that have been performing a wide repertoire since 1976. They have a long tradition of singing a variety of different styles of music, mainly shorter pieces, including medleys of songs from musicals, classical pieces and lighter items.

The Concert raised £900 which was divided between St Lawrence Church Fabric Fund, the Choir and the Band.



REHEARSAL PROBLEM-SOLVING FLOWCHART



Rules for Band Practice

1. Tune all the instruments by the 1st Soprano.
2. First tune but two at a time.
3. Finally tune in a body.
4. No blowing or practicing between the pieces; that should be done at home.
5. Begin together.
6. Obey the leader or director in relation to the performance of the music; a Band to play well must be governed by one mind.
7. Let the drums beat VERY softly, otherwise it will be impossible to hear the defects.



Sale Funds to support the Band

Please contact Marilyn Mason or Terri Fradgley for information



**Philips HR 2303
Electric Ice Cream
Maker**
As new - £7.50



**Set of Four Animal
Mugs and Tops**
£2.50



Medium Size Dog Basket
£4.50



**Small Strong Table
(few marks) £3.00**



**Sky Plus HD Box – Brand
New (with remote etc).
Still in packaging £10**



Full Length Mirror
£7.00

**Vintage 1970 Fisher
Price Truck (with
rake!) £3.00**



Rules Recommended for the Band Room

1. Use no profane or vulgar language.
2. Keep your rehearsal room clean and orderly.
3. Have good music stands and suitable light.
4. Do not take pride in being the last one at the band meetings.
5. Do not attempt to lead the leader.
6. And finally, remember that noise is not music.



The flag is raised at Froxfield War Memorial Hall prior to band rehearsal in preparation for the Queen's actual birthday on 21 April 2019 when she turned 93 and to celebrate St George's Day on 23 April 2019.

Happy Birthday ma'am.

Many thanks indeed to everyone who has kindly supplied photographs used in this edition of the Flame.

Remember to look at the band website for the up to date diary, news items and gallery of photographs:
www.phoenixbrassband.co.uk.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2019 Engagements

Please note the following 'public' events / engagements:

Sunday, 5 May 2019

Lambourn Vintage Machinery Society Show, 11.30am

Saturday, 11 May 2019

Band Dinner & Awards Evening, Royal British Legion, Hungerford, 7.00 for 7.30pm

Saturday, 8 June 2019

Froxfield Music Festival on The Green, Froxfield, with the Training Band, 1.30pm

Sunday, 9 June 2019

Reception at Littlecote House, near Hungerford

(it will be 75 years since the last minute planning for D-Day was being undertaken at Littlecote House. Visitors, guests, and locals will be invited to gather at Ramsbury Airfield for a commemoration service, where an information board, Remembrance Plaque and the Memorial stone will be unveiled)

Saturday, 15 June 2019

Chaddleworth Fete, times to be confirmed

Saturday, 22 June 2019

"Round The World Quiz / Concert" and Coffee Morning with the Training Band and support from Main Band, 10.30am until 12 noon

Sunday, 30 June 2019

Hungerford Summer Festival (formerly Hadcaf) Concert and Grand Summer Draw at Froxfield War Memorial Hall, 3.00pm

Sunday, 7 July 2019

St Michael and All Angels Church Fete, Lambourn, 2.30pm

Saturday and Sunday, 13 and 14 July 2019

Market Lavington Vintage Steam Meet 2019, Elisha Field, Drove Lane, Market Lavington, Wiltshire, 11.30am until 2.00pm

Sunday, 4 August 2019

Victoria Park Bandstand, Newbury, 3.00pm

Answers to Quiz on Page 4:

- 1) 4
- 2) 8
- 3) 8
- 4) 2
- 5) Play very quietly
- 6) Play very loudly
- 7) Gradually getting louder
- 8) Less movement/slower tempo
- 9) Bass trombone and percussion
- 10) Soprano cornet, Eb [tenor] horn and Eb bass [tuba]
- 11) Baritone horn, Eb [tenor] horn, flugel horn, cornet, and euphonium
- 12) Holst played trombone
- 13) Play with the bow [instead of plucking the notes]
- 14) John Philip Sousa who composed The Liberty Bell [Monty Python] and many other famous marches.

Finally, thought for the day from Marilyn Mason.....



And finally.....provided by Iain Smith.....!!!!





Friends of Phoenix

Phoenix Brass are pleased that they are able to 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, Rose Marie, 131 Priory Road, Hungerford, Berkshire RG17 0AP; or
Mr D Watson, 1 Wheatsheaf Cottage, 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**