

The Silver Prize

The Journal of the Long Eaton Silver Prize Band



Newsletter No. 273

February 2025

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Band Room News

Sharon Stansfield: 25 Years and Counting

On the 3rd January, our musical director Sharon Stansfield became the first resident conductor of the Long Eaton Silver Prize Band to have served for 25 years since the founding of the old Temperance Band in c. 1870. In doing so, she has exceeded the previous record held by the late Arthur Marshall who became the band's conductor on 27th July 1950 (following the death of Harry Evetts) until his resignation on 25th July 1975 (just two days short of 25 years).

Harry Evetts remains the band's longest serving conductor (between 1908 and 1950), but as the band's professional conductor, Harry Evetts only took rehearsals every two weeks, with much of the work left to a succession of bandmasters (the last of which was Arthur Marshall from c. 1948).

When Sharon took over the band was down to 15 players and 1 in the training group. Two months later the band came 17th out of the 34 bands who entered the fourth section Midlands area, their best result for many years. Five national finals later (including becoming the only lady conductor so far to have won the third section National Championships of Great Britain in 2006), the total band membership now stands at 95, with 19 of the 34 regular players in our senior band having started in either our beginners' groups or our training band.

Ted Bradley

At our evening concert at the Chatsworth Centre, Ted Bradley was awarded a NEMBBA 80 long service award by our musical director and NEMBBA vice-president, Sharon Stansfield. We believe Ted is the first recipient of this award.

Ted is still a fine judge of music aged 89: he said that the euphoniums sounded superb – well done Debbie!

Paul

The band sends its best wishes to Paul, our solo trombonist, whose operation has been successful. We are hoping that Paul will be returning to us in September. Thank you to Carl, who is covering top trombone for us at NEMBBA and the area.

Helen Lane

The band sends it thanks to our former horn and baritone player (and instrument repairer), who has donated a number of instruments to the band.

Awards

Congratulations to all the winners of our annual awards (which were presented at our Christmas concerts at the Chatsworth Centre).

Centenary Shield	Bandsman of the Year	Robert Stansfield
Proactif Shield	Most Improved Player	Elaine Nicolson
Progress Shield	Most Improved Training Band Player	Nikki Fretwell
Elma Ramplin Memorial Shield	Most Improved Beginner's Group Player	Kate Nelson
Kathleen Bonser Memorial Shield	Band Supporter of the Year	Kate Nelson
Special Award	25 years as Musical Director	Sharon Stansfield
25 Long Service Awards		Roy Varney & Robert Stansfield

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Scratch Cards

The band runs a scratch card (£1 a go) every Monday (for the training band and beginners' group) and Wednesday (for the senior band). Please see Rob (Mondays) or Kim (Wednesdays) after rehearsal. Whilst this is entirely voluntary; please consider having a go, if not every week, then perhaps once every month. We do have standing order forms available in the band room if you would rather contribute that way, or you could set up a standing order online if you wish (or pay by credit card or by PayPal to robert@lespb.org.uk). Some band members also pay for their after-band drinks by standing order. Please remember to let Rob know, so that you are still entered on the scratch card every week! And if you do not want to "gamble", please just donate!

The money we raise goes towards paying for the service charge and electricity bills for our rehearsal room.

Notes from the Musical Director



Happy New Year to you all: my twenty-sixth with the band as your conductor!!! Thank you for my special award at our Christmas concert to mark my first 25 years as conductor of the band. Thank you too to Lisa and Roy who have also shared these 25 years with me.

Thank you for all your efforts during the Christmas season; as last year, 19 band jobs, starting with Ockbrook Christmas Lights and finishing on Christmas Eve at St. Laurence Church's Crib Service. Thank you especially to Roy, the band's "Spirit of Christmas" for leading the carolling at a number of our small band jobs, resplendent in his Christmas tie.

I had tremendous feedback from our concerts in St. Laurence and the Duchess Theatre where the tickets for next year are already selling quickly (over half had sold by the end of evening performance and as of now only 11 tickets are remaining for the matinee and 37 for the evening performance). Well done too to our award winners: Elaine, Nikki, Kate (twice) and Rob, and to Roy and Rob on their 25 years band long service awards, and of course Ted, who received his NEMBBA 80 years long service award, over 50 years of which have been spent with Long Eaton.

Both our bands are now working towards the NEMBBA contest and then the senior band to the area. Sadly, we are the only training band to have entered NEMBBA, but this remains an opportunity to show our fellow bandsmen how good we are, and what we have achieved in the 24 years since I took over conducting the training band (when it only had one player!). We are also starting to work on harder music in readiness for when some more of you will move up to the senior band.

Our senior band is still rebuilding after the loss of some experienced players, but we are going in the right direction again and we have made a good start on Arkansas, although we still have a long way to go with NEMBBA next Sunday and the area only a further three weeks away. Thank you to Henry and Ian who will be making their area debuts this year, Jo, who is helping us out on euphonium, Andrew, who is playing bass trombone for us at NEMBBA and Beardy Stu, who is playing Eb Bass for us at the area.

For both bands, this is our opportunity to focus on our playing technique (the usual intonation, balance, starting and ending the correct notes together, dynamics and especially watching me for tempo changes), and being the very best that we can be.

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Five Years Ago

Erewash Film Society

This month's film is being shown on Monday 17th February at 8:00pm. Details of the film are posted in the band room (the license prevents us from advertising which films are being shown other than on the band's premises). All members of the band are welcome. Free admission

Ten Years Ago

Kevin Holdgate's Trombones Against Breast Cancer

Kevin's massed (104) trombones concert at Butlins raised over £2,000 for breast cancer. Depicted below are the ten trombonists from the Long Eaton Silver Prize Band.



Fifteen Years Ago



Derbyshire Life

Sharon has been interviewed about the band by Derbyshire Life. The article is expected to be in the March edition.

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Twenty Years Ago

Pete McCormick, Tony Perry



Welcome to Pete McCormick who comes out of retirement to join us on Eb Bass and to Tony Perry, who joins us on Bb Bass.

Pete replaces Julian, who has decided to retire from banding to concentrate on his guitar playing. The band wishes Julian all the best in his new musical idiom and thank him for his efforts over the last six months.

Training Band Diary

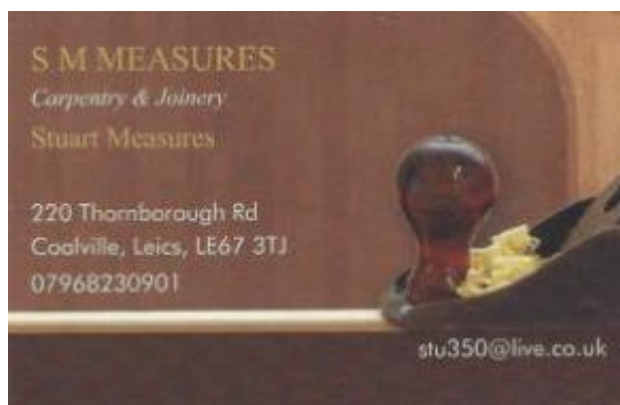
Sharon will be issuing engagement schedules with the actual start times once they have been confirmed. New additions are marked in green. Changes to the schedule are marked in red.

You should receive emails from Vento for these events, please respond to them with your availability to keep everything up to date, and let Sharon know if you cannot make them so we can arrange dep players.

If you are not on Vento, please ask Robert to add you.

2025

	Date	Start	Event	Post Code
Saturday	15 th February	9:45 a.m.	NEMBBA Training Band Entertainment Contest The Post Mill Centre, Market Street, South Normanton, Derbyshire	DE55 2EJ
Friday	25 th April	7:30 p.m.	St. George's Day Proms Concert Soldiers & Sailors, 421 Tamworth Road, Long Eaton	NG10 3JS
Sunday	6 th December	10:00 a.m.	St. Mary's Christmas Coffee Morning St Mary's Church Hall, Victoria Road, Draycott	DE72 3PS



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Band Diary

Lisa will be issuing engagement schedules with the actual start times once they have been confirmed. New additions are marked in green. Changes to the schedule are marked in red.

You should receive emails from Vento for these events, please respond to them with your availability to keep everything up to date, and let Lisa or Sharon know if you cannot make them so we can arrange dep players.

2025

	Date	Start	Event	Post Code
Saturday	16 th February	11:00 a.m.	NEMBBA Area Test Piece Contest The Post Mill Centre, Market Street, South Normanton, Derbyshire	DE55 2EJ
Sunday	23 rd February	7:00 p.m.	Area Preview Summit Centre, Pavilion Road, Kirkby-in- Ashfield	NG17 7LL
Saturday	8 th March	7:00 a.m.	Area Contest, Bedworth Civic Hall (bus leaving from outside the bandroom)	CV12 8NF
Friday	25 th April	7:30 p.m.	St. George's Day Proms Concert Soldiers & Sailors, 421 Tamworth Road, Long Eaton	NG10 3JS
Saturday	26 th April	7:30 p.m.	Longcliffe Golf Club, Snells Nook Lane, Nanpantan, Loughborough	LE11 3YA
Saturday	27 th September	7:30 p.m.	St. Chad's Church, Wilne Rd, Church Wilne	DE72 3QH
Saturday	18 th October	7:00 p.m.	Charity Concert for the Red Cross Mapperley Social Club, Plains Road, Nottingham	NG3 5RH
Saturday	25 th October	7:30 p.m.	Royal British Legion Concert St. Laurence's Church, Market Place, Long Eaton	NG10 1LJ
Thursday	6 th November	7:30 p.m.	Festival of Remembrance Winding Wheel Theatre, 13 Holywell St., Chesterfield	S41 7SA
Saturday	6 th December	7:30 p.m.	St. Laurence Church Christmas Concert St. Laurence's Church, Market Place, Long Eaton	NG10 1LJ
Sunday	21 st December	2:30 p.m.	Christmas in Brass (Matinee) Duchess Theatre, West Gate, Long Eaton	NG10 1EF
Sunday	21 st December	7:30 p.m.	Christmas in Brass (Evening) Duchess Theatre, West Gate, Long Eaton	NG10 1EF

Band Supporters

The band is also most grateful to the following for their recent support of the band:

Helen Lane	Donation of instruments
James Mayell	Hosting the band's website for free
Peter Dawson	Our landlord, for our rent-free rehearsal facilities

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Personnel

Contacts

Sharon Stansfield	07887 907516	sharon@lespb.org.uk
Lisa Balsom	01332 677863	lisa@lespb.org.uk
Deborah Redpath	0115 9195990	j.redpath2@ntlworld.com
Robert Stansfield	07722 118127	robert@lespb.org.uk

Website & Social Media

Our Website: <https://www.lespb.org.uk>.

Our Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/lespb> (senior band)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/lespth> (training band)

NEMBBA Website: <https://www.nembba.org.uk>

NEMBBA Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/nembba>

Midlands Area Website: <https://mabbc.org>

Midlands Area Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/midlandsareabbc>

Band Officers and Committee

President	Councillor Kevin Miller	
Vice-Presidents	Fay Blackburn John Blackburn Val Custance	Roland Hosker Carl Ramplin, F.C.C.A. Richard Walker PG Cert, DMS, CITP, MBSC, MAPM
Honorary Life Members	Ted Bradley Colin Millns	Sylvia Purnell Professor Pete Thomas
Musical Director (*)	Sharon Stansfield F.V.C.M. (Hons)	
Assistant Musical Director	James Dennis	
Chairman (*)	Rob Guest	
Vice-Chairman (*)	Ian Peberday	
Secretary (*)	Lisa Balsom	
Contest Secretary	Lisa Balsom	
Treasurer (*)	Robert Stansfield	
Equipment Officer	Robert Stansfield	
Assistant Equipment Officer (*)	Elaine Nicolson	
Librarian (*)	Deborah Redpath	
Assistant Librarians	Cheryl Allen	Amy Redpath
Band Sergeants	James Dennis	Sarah Measures
Publicity Officer	Sharon Stansfield F.V.C.M. (Hons)	
Junior Rep (*)	Daniel Nicolson	
Committee Members (*)	Andrew Beaumont Robert Burrows James Dennis	Kim Larwood Sarah Measures
Newsletter Editor	James Mayell	
Webmaster	James Mayell	
Auditors	Carl Ramplin, F.C.C.A.	Ian Peberday

(*) indicates a committee member

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Training Band Officers

Musical Director
Assistant Musical Director
Events Organiser / Secretary
Equipment Officer
Librarian
Stage Manager
Beginners Group Teachers

Sharon Stansfield F.V.C.M. (Hons)
James Dennis
Sharon Stansfield F.V.C.M. (Hons)
Robert Stansfield & Elaine Nicolson
Cheryl Allen
Daniel Rigley
Tracey Cooper, James Dennis, Robert Stansfield & Stuart Measures

