

The Silver Prize

The Journal of the Long Eaton Silver Prize Band



Newsletter No. 283

December 2025

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Band Room News

Ted Bradley

With great sadness, we announce the passing of Ted Bradley, former player and conductor of our band. He peacefully passed away last Saturday afternoon, surrounded by his family.

Ted first learned to play in the band in 1946 and briefly left the band to play principal euphonium for the Scots Guards during his national service in the 1950s. On his return to the band, he gained recognition as one of the finest euphonium players in the Midlands. Most euphonium players around the world will have played Grandfather's Clock: Ted was the first: the composer, George Doughty, brought it to Long Eaton to hear it played before he published it. Ted took over as conductor of the band for three years in 1975 and in 2002 returned to join our "lovely basses".

Surpassing Ted's successes as a player was his work as a novice teacher. Many bands around the country have benefitted from players first taught by Ted at Long Eaton. In total, Ted spent more than 80 years involved in banding (48 with Long Eaton), being awarded his 80 years long service award at the NEMBBA contest in 2024. A teacher and mentor to many of us, Ted was a huge character within the band, and we have so many memories of him.

Always one to say exactly what he thought, Ted brought light and laughter to many of the band's greatest moments. We remember him fondly and will miss him sorely.

Thank you, Ted, for everything.

Francis Skinner

We are also saddened to learn of the death last Sunday of our former player, Francis Skinner, a former pupil of Ted's in the band in the 1970s. Francis was awarded her 50 year long service award at the recent NEMBBA contest but was already too ill to receive it. We send our condolences to her family.

Christmas Rehearsals

The training band and beginners' group's last rehearsal in December is on Monday 8th December (since the training band has an engagement on the 15th and we through you would like the 22nd December off). However, please do not forget all the band jobs! Rehearsals resume in the New Year on Monday 5th January.

The last rehearsal for the senior band this year will be on Wednesday 17th December. We resume rehearsals for NEMBBA and the area on Wednesday January 7th (but please look at your part for Three Haworth Impressions at home over the holiday season!).

Birthdays

The great-grandfather of the band, Roy, welcomes the band's youngsters, Ian and Sue, as they join him in their eighth decade. The rest of the band wishes them a happy 70th birthday.

Thank you

The band thanks the family of the late Keith Rigby for their donation of a cornet to the training band.

Centenary Shield

Please send your votes for the Bandsman of the Year award (donated by our late president Roland Hosker) to Sharon on paper or by email (sharon@lespb.org.uk).

The Bandsman of the Year award will be presented to the winner at our Christmas concert at the Chatsworth Centre, where Sharon will also be awarding the inaugural Fred & Mavis Memorial Shield for the band's most improved player of the year, the Progress Shield (donated by the Long Eaton branch of the Cooperative Party in memory of three former members) for the training band's most improved player of the year, the Elma Ramplin Memorial Shield for the most improved member of our beginner's group and the Kathleen Bonser Memorial Shield to our supporter of the year.

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Vento

Solo Software Ltd have released an app version for Apple and Android phones of Vento, the system we use for recording your availability for band jobs.

Ockbrook Big Band Christmas Dance



The Ockbrook Big Band are holding a Christmas dance at the Soldiers and Sailors on Saturday 20th December from 8 p.m. Our band provides the entire trumpet section: Sharon, Dave (our former Flugel player), Roy, and Elaine.

Please see Rob for tickets (£5 each) if you are interested in coming for a fun band night out (Sharon will be telling a new set of “family-friendly” jokes and the dancing is optional – maybe ☺).

And after our Christmas concerts at the Duchess theatre, Roy, in the guise of Ted Webster, will be playing lead trumpet for Cranberry Flick on the Monday and Tuesday. Tickets are available from the theatre website

and enthusiastic cheering of “Ted”’s solos is mandatory.

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 Heather after rehearsals. 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.

Five Years Ago

Lily Dog

The band also sends it condolences to Lisa following the loss of her lovely ‘emotional-support’ dog, Lily.

Notes from the Musical Director



Sadly, the local pandemic situation means that we will be in tier 3 after lockdown and even outdoor rehearsals remain suspended. The good news is that, with vaccinations due to start in December, we can at least look forward to resuming rehearsals in the early months of next year. However, groups of six are permitted to meet in public places (and the middle of road is a public place, although preferably a cul-de-sac for safety) and so some carol playing to friends and neighbours is currently permitted. Rob has done a risk assessment to provide guidelines as to how we should do this; please read this if you are planning to do some carolling. It has been a tough year for everyone: if we all play some carols in our gardens for our neighbours, we can spread some Christmas cheer. We are a community band, and I think that our community needs us this year, even more than usual.

Please continue to send your news items to Yeti, our editor. Thank you to those who have already contributed.

A very merry Christmas to you all, and hopefully a much happier New Year than this one!

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Notes from the Post Mill Centre, South Normanton (North East Midlands Brass Band Autumn Contest)

Results: Training Band Section

1. Long Eaton Silver Prize Training Band (Sharon Stansfield)

Best Instrumentalist: Henry Siviter (cornet, Long Eaton)

Youngest Player: Rowan Nicolson (9).

Adjudicator's Comments

Sandy Smith

Look To The Future: Confident start with good dynamics immediately evident. Good trombones noted in the second section and great accented articulation. A lovely p at **42** and good control throughout. A lovely start.

Song Without Words (Ct. Solo): A controlled and subtle start. The soloist is lyrical and secure with lovely shaped phrases. At **D** keep the solo line “singing” – even at f. Most of the accompaniment detail is heard and well controlled. Great ending from the soloist. Bravo Henry!

Little Ted's Tuba: The tempo is so well chosen and impressive dynamic control is again very evident in the playing. Soloist is lyrical at **B** and the general balance is very good. A really enjoyable, fun item! Thank you soloist!

Young Amadeus: Control is again good. Maybe just let the main melody “lead” a little more at times. Great lift into the change of key. Impressive dynamic control yet again. Lovely, relaxed playing.

Pastime with Good Company: Rhythmic and stylish introduction. **B** The lead melody line could come out a little more. The ensemble is tight and you build to a very effective ending.

Thank you for a performance especially notable for its control of ensemble and dynamics. A real joy to listen to.

Results: Third Section

1. Long Eaton Silver Prize Band (James Dennis)

2. The Wigston Band (Colin Jones)

3. Whitwell Brass Band (Rob Deakin)

Adjudicator's Comments

Sandy Smith

Olympus: The opening is strong. Keep an eye on the balance. The attention to dynamic detail is good! Don't let the low percussion dominate too much. **F** works well. The build from **H** to **J** also works but I lose some internal detail in some of the “scrunchy” chords.

Transition into **L** if effective. The cornet is characterful. Some of the solo voices could “sing” more.

“The Olympic Flame” is well controlled with shape from the MD and a good eye on the balance. Some of the solo lines could “sing” more. Watch the breathing horns in the melody line before **P** – it does sound a little “haphazard” in places – have you marked them in. **S** – bravo horns. This is building well in excitement with good control.

W loses a bit of energy because of the dynamic. I lose a little of the more technical passages towards the end.

A well thought out performance from the MD with good shape and structure in the performance noted.

Soloists – keep working on the lyricism of your solo lines.

Thank you.

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Notes from the Musical Director

Overshadowing our contest and concerts successes last month is the death last Saturday of my teacher and mentor, Ted Bradley after a long illness. Everything we achieved together in the last 26 years at Long Eaton would not have been possible without Ted, who gave up his time to teach me and many others to play brass instruments all those years ago. Ted returned to band in December 2002 and shared in our successes and disappointments for another twenty years until ill health finally compelled him to give up playing after a total of 48 years with the band. We will all miss him.

Thank you for all your hard work this month, during which we have had the NEMBBA contest, two important concerts, the Remembrance parade, and six Christmas Lights carol concerts.

The concert for Ilkeston Royal British Legion overall went very well and we have already been booked for next year. Thank you to Sheila and Calvin for covering for players on holiday, and especially to Ian on percussion, who had to play the first few pieces with no music. This year's Librarian's wooden spoon award goes to The Librarians! I have also received lots of good feedback from the concert at The Winding Wheel: again, work shifts, holidays and illness within the band were an issue: thank you to Mike, Calvin, Dr. Chris, Mark and Ben for helping us out.

I was delighted with the training band's performance at the NEMBBA contest: whilst, as in February, we were the only band in the section, we again received some superb adjudicator's comments. Maintaining balance across a good range of dynamics is something many contesting bands fail to always achieve. Thank you for all your hard work in rehearsal – it really paid off. Well done also to Henry for winning the inaugural NEMBBA soloist's medal.

I was also pleased with the senior band's performance in the third section: my first contest on principal cornet for the band for over 45 years! Well done to James for winning his first contest as a conductor. The remarks highlight a few things to work on for the area, but we are moving in the right direction as a band.

Thank you to the 20 of you who played carols on a very cold night in Ockbrook, the 30 who turned out to play at 5:30 p.m. for the Long Eaton Christmas Lights and then the 23 who played at Borrowash. We followed this by playing at Swaley, Sandiacre and Draycott last Saturday. Thank you to everyone who managed to rearrange their days so they could come and perform with the band. As usual, all of our audiences have been very appreciative.

This month we continue our busy schedule, with concerts at St. Laurence, Longcliffe Gold Club and the Duchess Theatre together a number of carol concerts, before finishing with the crib service at St. Laurence on Christmas Eve. Our training band is also busy, with a concert at St. Mary's Church Hall in Draycott, and playing carols for the Scout and Guides service in All Saints, Sawley and in support of the Beavers (also in Sawley).

Finally, thank you for all your hard work this year, and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Successful New Year!

Ten Years Ago

Sarah Measures

Sarah "I can go faster than my motorbike" Measures has finally had her knee operation following her accident earlier this year. We look forward to her imminent return to band after taking a rehearsal off to recover.



Charity Concert

Our charity concert for the Red Cross raised £530. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

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Fifteen Years Ago

The Rogues Gallery

(a selection of photographs from the solo, duet and quartet competition)



Stuart Measures
Training Band Class 3 Champion



Stuart Wakefield & Helen Lane
Rob Burrows & Ben Allen
Adele Carter & Natalie Colegate
Training Band Duet Placings



Adele Carter
Musical Director's Special Award



Annie
Youngest Competitor



James Dennis
Open Slow Melody Champion

Twenty Years Ago

World Exclusive!



Long Eaton Silver Prize Band are proud to present to the banding world the first ever flugelhorn sectional, starring Elma Ramplin and Roy Varney conducted by the band's other flugel player David Hill. Elma and Roy were rehearsing *Something Stupid*, probably the first brass band flugel duet to be recorded on CD.

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Twenty Five Years Ago

Melissa, Emma & George Ramplin

Congratulations to Melissa and Emma on their fine rendition of Jingle Bells at our Sandiacre concert, accompanied of course by their inimitable brother George on tambourine.

Tips From The Cornet Section

If the Musical Director asks if you are playing that part, say "No".

Alan Cox (2nd cornet)

I must not use bad language when I can't play my part. There are children in my section.

James Dennis (principal cornet)

James is still a child.

The rest of the cornet section.

The art of leadership is delegation. I let Roy and Sylvia play that difficult bit in the Haslemere Suite.

James Dennis (un-principled cornet)

Training Band Diary

Nicola will be issuing engagement schedules with the actual start times once we have confirmed them. 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 Nicola or Sharon know if you cannot make them so we can arrange dep players.

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

2025

	Date	Start	Event	Post Code
Sunday	6 th December	10:00 a.m.	St. Mary's Christmas Coffee Morning St Mary's Church Hall, Victoria Road, Draycott	DE72 3PS
Saturday	13 th December	11:00 a.m.	Carol Singing with the Long Eaton United Churches Fellowship Choir (with the Senior Band)	NG10 1LJ
Monday	15 th December	6:30 p.m.	Scouts & Guides Carol Service All Saints Church, Sawley	NG10 3AT
Wednesday	17 th December	6:00 p.m.	Carols for the Beavers Netherfield Road, Sawley	NG10 3FW

2026

	Date	Start	Event	Post Code
Saturday	17 th January	11:00 a.m.	Sandiacre Friendship Hub Sandiacre Methodist Church, 7 Bennet Street, Sandiacre	NG10 5RB
Sunday	22 nd February	Morning	NEMBBA Entertainment Contest (provisional) The Post Mill Centre, Market Street, South Normanton, Derbyshire	DE55 2EJ
Saturday	28 th March	7:00 p.m.	Chilwell Memorial Hall, 129 High Road, Chilwell	NG9 4AT

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Band Diary

Lisa will be issuing engagement schedules with the actual start times once we have confirmed them. 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

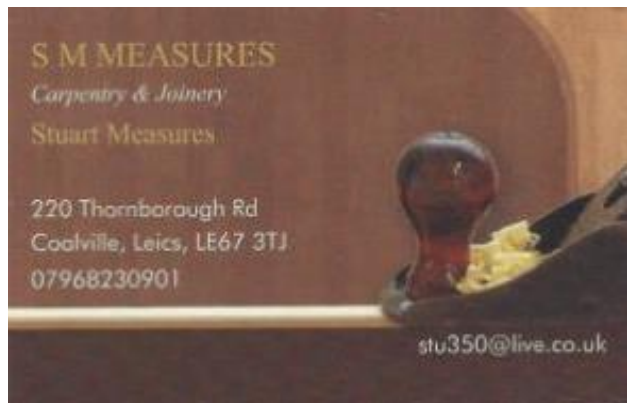
	Date	Start	Event	Post Code
Saturday	6 th December	7:30 p.m.	St. Laurence Church Christmas Concert St. Laurence's Church, Market Place, Long Eaton	NG10 1LJ
Thursday	11 th December	9:30 p.m.	41 Club Annual Dinner, Donington Manor Hotel, 1 High Street, Castle Donington (small band)	DE74 2PP
Friday	12 th December	8:30 p.m.	Longcliffe Golf Club, Snells Nook Lane, Nanpantan, Loughborough	LE11 3YA
Saturday	13 th December	11:00 a.m.	Carol Singing with the Long Eaton United Churches Fellowship Choir (with the Training Band)	NG10 1LJ
Monday	15 th December	2:30 p.m.	Rotary Club (small band) Holiday Inn, Bostock Lane, Sandiacre	NG10 5NJ
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
Tuesday	23 rd December	2:00 p.m.	Carols on Lisa's Wards (small band) F20 West Block Floor QMC, Derby Road, Nottingham	NG7 2UH
Wednesday	24 th December	3:30 p.m.	Crib Service, St. Laurence's Church, Market Place, Long Eaton	NG10 1LJ

2026

	Date	Start	Event	Post Code
Saturday	21 st February	Morning	NEMBBA Area Test-piece Contest The Post Mill Centre, Market Street, South Normanton, Derbyshire	DE55 2EJ
Saturday	7 th March	Morning	Area Contest Bedworth Civic Hall, High Street, Bedworth	CV12 8NF
Sunday	22 nd March	7:30 p.m.	Joint Concert with Sing West Hallam Morley Hayes Hotel, Main Road, Morely	DE6 6QA
Friday	29 th May	11:00 a.m.	White Friday marches (provisional) Bus from bandroom	
Saturday	26 th September	7:00 p.m.	Charity Concert for the Red Cross Mapperley Social Club, Plains Road, Nottingham	NG3 5RH
Saturday	31 st October	7:30 p.m.	Royal British Legion Concert Green Spire Church, Wharncliffe Road, Ilkeston	DE7 5GF
Sunday	20 th December	2:30 p.m.	Christmas in Brass (Matinee) Duchess Theatre, West Gate, Long Eaton	NG10 1EF

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	Date	Start	Event	Post Code
Sunday	20 th December	7:30 p.m.	Christmas in Brass (Evening) Duchess Theatre, West Gate, Long Eaton	NG10 1EF



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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/lesptb> (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	Carl Ramplin, F.C.C.A. Richard Walker PG Cert, DMS, CITP, MBSC, MAPM
Honorary Life Members	Lisa Balsom Sylvia Purnell Professor Pete Thomas	Colin Millns Roy Varney
Musical Director (*)	Sharon Stansfield F.V.C.M. (Hons)	
Assistant Musical Directors	James Dennis	Carl Ramplin, F.C.C.A.
Chairman (*)	Rob Guest	
Vice-Chairman (*)	Carl Ramplin, F.C.C.A.	
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 & Social Media	Kate Burrows	
Training Band Rep (*)	Nicola Fretwell	
Junior Rep (*)	Daniel Nicolson	
Committee Members (*)	Andrew Beaumont James Dennis Sarah Measures Ian Peberday	Kate Burrows Heather Hoy Kim Larwood
Newsletter Editors	James Mayell	Robert Stansfield
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	Sharon Stansfield F.V.C.M. (Hons)
Assistant Musical Director	James Dennis
Events Organiser / Secretary	Nicola Fretwell
Equipment Officers	Robert Stansfield & Elaine Nicolson
Librarian	Cheryl Allen
Stage Manager	Daniel Rigley
Beginners Group Teachers	Lisa Balsom, Stuart Measures, Elaine Nicolson & Robert Stansfield

Band Supporters

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

Peter Dawson	Our landlord, for our rent-free rehearsal facilities
John Irwin	A donation of £200 to band funds
Helen Lane	Donation of instruments, mouthpieces, and mutes
James Mayell	Hosting the band's website for free
Alison Slater	For the donation of the brass band music library of her late father, John Slater
Brian Draper	A donation of some of his music arrangements
Hucknall & Linby MC Band	A donation of music to our senior and training bands
Jo & Julie	For the donation of the Fred & Mavis Aram Memorial Shield
The Family of Keith Rigby	A donation of a cornet to the training band