

# *The Silver Prize*

## The Journal of the Long Eaton Silver Prize Band



**Newsletter No. 284**

**January 2026**

# The Silver Prize: January 2026

## Band Room News

### Ted Bradley

The band were honoured to play at Ted's funeral just before Christmas, with Sharon doubling as conductor and celebrant. The band owes so much to Ted, especially for all his work as a brass instrument teacher in the 1960s and 1970s, when without Ted, and his fellow teachers Sid Bland and Bill Woods, providing a steady flow of new players to the band, the band may have well not survived.

The collection at the Ted's funeral, including Sharon's celebrant's fee, has raised £550 for band funds.

The family are also providing the Ted Bradley Memorial Shield to be awarded to the best bass section at the NEMBBA February contest: our lovely basses are already practising the area test piece!

### Awards

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

Special congratulations to Sarah, the inaugural winner of the Fred & Mavis Aram Memorial Shield.

Title	Award	Winner
Centenary Shield	Bandsman of the Year	James Dennis & Elaine Nicolson
Fred & Mavis Aram Memorial Shield	Most Improved Player	Sarah Measures
Progress Shield	Most Improved Training Band Player	Heather Irving
Elma Ramplin Memorial Shield	Most Improved Beginner's Group Player	Cohen Buck
Kathleen Bonser Memorial Shield	Band Supporter of the Year	Kate Burrows

### Promotions

Congratulations to Jessica and Amelie, who are moving up to the training band.

### Examination Results

Congratulations to Alison on passing her grade 3 on euphonium and to Henry on passing his grade 5 on cornet with a merit.

### Ted Webster

The Ted Webster's Fan Club made its annual pilgrimage to the Chatsworth Centre the day after our Christmas concerts there to support our favourite, multi-talented repiano/sop/trumpet/flugel/claves musician as he played with Cranberry Flick.



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Sharon was honoured to be invited on Cranberry Flick stage to share a trumpet solo with the maestro.

Roy also played soprano for us at the Chatsworth Centre, but he will be moving back to repiano in the New Year so he can have young ladies sitting each side of him: as it was put very nicely at the Cranberry Flick concert, our Grandfather of the Band is very keen on carbon-dating. However, rumours that Roy refused to sit down when playing carols with the band at the Larches care home in case he was mistaken for a resident are quite untrue.

## James Dennis

There is a rumour that James wore some Christmas attire at a Thoresby concert in December. The editor is waiting for photographic evidence to substantiate this amazing claim.

## 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. Please download the app and sign up to Vento if you have not already done so (it's free!).

## 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](mailto: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-seventh with the band as your conductor!!!

Thank you for all your hard work throughout the year: we have done between both our bands 37 band jobs and five contests, including twenty Christmas gigs, 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, and for covering sop for us at the Chatsworth Centre concerts.

I have had tremendous feedback from our concerts in St. Laurence and the Duchess Theatre where the tickets for next year are already selling quickly (over two-thirds had sold by the end of evening performance and as of now only 41 tickets are remaining for the matinee and 40 for the evening performance). Well done too to this year's award winners: James & Elaine, Sarah, Heather, Cohen and Kate, and to James on his 25 years band long

service award.

There was some excellent playing from the band at St. Laurence, with special mentions to Elaine on flugel and Jo and Calvin on euphonium. Thank you to Beardy Stu on bass, Calvin and Rob Burrows for helping out the band. After some early intonation problems at the matinee (which we need to fix before the upcoming contests), the band also played very well at the Chatsworth Centre (many people have said it was our best concert yet). Well done again to Elaine on flugel, Roy on soprano cornet, and to our new band Santa Claus, Dan. Thank you also to Rob Burrows and Ben Allen for helping out the band. Thank you also to everyone who played at the crib service at St. Laurence on Christmas Eve. It was good to see the church full again for the first time since Covid.

Our senior band is now working towards the NEMBBA contest followed by the area contest, whilst our training band needs to decide soon whether to enter NEMBBA given the lack of competition. Either way, we still start

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working on some new music for our upcoming concerts, including our first concert of the new year on 17<sup>th</sup> January.

## Five Years Ago

### Notes from the Musical Director



Happy New Year to you all: I have just completed 21 years with the band as your conductor (not that I have been able to do much for the last 9 months)!

It was good that some of us from the senior and training bands were able to get out and play a few carols in the community. We received over £500 in donations too which we weren't expecting. I have been asked to bid for a grant for £250 for new music from local councillors, I am fairly optimistic and will keep you posted.

Normally, at this time we would be looking forward to the NEMBBA and Area contests and our first concerts of the new year. Sadly, now we are all in Tier 4 all (outdoor, socially distanced in public places) sextet activities must now be suspended (it is a bit cold anyway).

Please make your New Year's resolution to keep practicing: we are promised that life should be getting back to normal by the end of spring which is when we are likely to have some band jobs (West Park on 13th June is already booked) and probably with not a lot of rehearsal time beforehand. Practicing on your own with no rehearsals or concerts to look forward to can be demoralising but you have all put a lot of effort in the past to reach a good standard of brass playing. A few lip flexibilities and hymn tunes each week will make a difference when we finally do return to band and have 1½-2 hour rehearsals and concerts again. If anyone wishes, I am happy to help anyone over Zoom, Facebook messenger or even the phone. Stay safe and well everyone xxx

## Ten Years Ago

### Club General Meeting

The long process of winding up the club is now finally drawing to an end.

The next stage is a general meeting to formally approve the "instrument of dissolution". This is being held in the Zingari Club on College Street on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January from 11:15 a.m. (doors open 11:00 a.m.).

All band members who a year ago were both over 18 years of age and also then members of the band, remain members of the club and are entitled to attend the meeting and vote.

If you are able, please try to attend and ensure that we have a quorum.



### Voice of Christmas

Our charity concert Voices of Christmas (written and presented by Bill Varnum with Andy Ward) for the St. Laurence Church raised £800. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

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## **Fifteen Years Ago**

### **Rebecca & Lesley**



Rebecca is standing down from the training band (although she is remaining with our senior band) to concentrate on a university course. Apart from being the training band's principal cornet for a number of years, Rebecca has also been the training band's events organiser. The training band thanks Rebecca for all her efforts of the past few years, and Lesley, who has volunteered to take over as event's organiser. Rebecca will continue to help out the training band as required.

## **Twenty Years Ago**

### **Happy Centenary**



Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Band!

We are planning a number of events to celebrate our centenary, the dates of which we will be finalising shortly. Our banners and centenary CD should be ready during February.

### **Emma's Birthday**



As of today (30<sup>th</sup> December), it is only 98 days to Emma's birthday when, after years of practise, she will finally become a teenager.

Emma has now admitted that reason baritone players don't play very loud is that they have to save their breath for talking: I am sure that we can all relate to that!

## **Twenty Five Years Ago**

### **All Saints Church, Sawley**

Our contribution to Sawley Church's Christmas Crackers concert was very well received, apart from a few complaints that we did not play long enough! We should put that right when we do a full concert there later this year. More importantly, over £600 was raised for the Treetops hospice, which is where Sid Bland, former cornet player, and later musical director of the band, received care before his death in 1998.

### **Alan Cox**

A big thank you to Alan Cox, the only band member to do all of the Christmas jobs (ensemble playing and full concerts).

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## **Christmas Crackers**

Now that it is Epiphany, a bad idea is to remember Christmas by repeating all of the worst jokes and riddles from the Christmas crackers. However, in the total absence of any submissions to the newsletter from the band this month, and since I have a spare page to fill, the only alternative is a picture of James in the bath when he was one: and the Human Rights Acts forbids torture (and the picture is rather extremely distressing, and not only to James). Thus:

Why did Miles take his ladder to school?

*'Cos he wanted to go to High School.*

What two words have the most letters?

*Post Office.*

What are the largest ants in the world?

*Eleph-ants!*

Why is perfume obedient?

*Because it is scent wherever it goes.*

James: Mumsie, I'm too tired to do my homework

Shazzie: Don't be silly Jamesie-pops, hard work never killed anyone yet.

James: Why should I risk being the first?

What would you call five bottles of fizzy lemonade?

*A pop group.*

How do you spell hungry horse with four letters?

*M.T.G.G.*

Why did the baby foal take throat lozenges?

*Because he was a little horse.*

Who was the biggest robber in history?

*Atlas – he held up the world.*

What do elephants have that no other animal has?

*Baby elephants.*

What do vampire doctors say?

*Necks, please!*

What do you get if you find a sheep in a rainstorm?

*A wet blanket.*

(For Jamesie-pops, an avid Star Cack (sorry Trek) fanatic)

Have you heard about the monster who was known as Captain Kirk?

*He had a left ear, a right ear, and a final front ear.*

What bow can't you tie?

*A rainbow.*

What's your new dog's name?

*Dunno – he won't tell me.*

Waiter, your thumb's in my soup!

*That's all right, sir, it's not too hot!*

What do you take off last when you get into bed?

*Your feet off the floor.*

Two elephants fell off a cliff.

*Boom, Boom!*

*(or Groan! Groan!)*

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## 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.

### 2026

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

## 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.

### 2026

	Date	Start	Event	Post Code
Saturday	21 <sup>st</sup> February	Morning	NEMBBA Area Test-piece Contest The Post Mill Centre, Market Street, South Normanton, Derbyshire	DE55 2EJ
Saturday	7 <sup>th</sup> March	Morning	Area Contest Bedworth Civic Hall, High Street, Bedworth	CV12 8NF
Sunday	22 <sup>nd</sup> March	7:30 p.m.	Joint Concert with Sing West Hallam Morley Hayes Hotel, Main Road, Morely	DE6 6QA
Friday	29 <sup>th</sup> May	11:00 a.m.	Whit Friday marches (provisional) Bus from bandroom	
Saturday	26 <sup>th</sup> September	7:00 p.m.	Charity Concert for the Red Cross Mapperley Social Club, Plains Road, Nottingham	NG3 5RH
Saturday	31 <sup>st</sup> October	7:30 p.m.	Royal British Legion Concert Green Spire Church, Wharnccliffe Road, Ilkeston	DE7 5GF
Sunday	20 <sup>th</sup> December	2:30 p.m.	Christmas in Brass (Matinee) Duchess Theatre, West Gate, Long Eaton	NG10 1EF
Sunday	20 <sup>th</sup> 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
The Family of Ted Bradley	A donation of £550 to band funds from the collection at Ted's funeral

