

# *The Silver Prize*

## The Journal of the Long Eaton Silver Prize Band



**Newsletter No. 285**

**February 2026**

# ***The Silver Prize: February 2026***

## **Band Room News**

### ***Training Band & Beginners' Groups***

The senior band has invited a championship section conductor down on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February to help us to prepare for the upcoming NEMBBA and area contests, and they need to make the most of the opportunity with have a full rehearsal.

As such, there will be no training band rehearsal on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February.

Lisa will be also busy in the senior band rehearsal, and so her class will also be cancelled on the 9<sup>th</sup>. However, Rob will still be available to teach his class.

### ***Bandroom Cleaning***

Thank you to Heather and Nikki for cleaning the bandroom.

### ***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). 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**



Well done to our training band last month for an excellent concert for the Sandiacre Friendship Hub in the local Methodist Church. It was so well received that we were immediately booked to return in September!

The training band also has concerts in both March and April: please complete Vento so we know how many of you will be coming to these concerts. We do need to know beforehand how many seats to set out!

The senior band is hard at work on preparing for the NEMBBA and area concerts with James conducting. Please member to complete Vento so James can arrange the sectionals. Many of you know I have had a few health problems recently: I do still hope to be able to play at the contests; if not, we do have a contingency plan!

## **Five Years Ago**

### ***Band Rehearsals***

Rehearsals in the band room remain suspended.

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## ***Erewash Film Society***

The Erewash Film Society remains suspended.

## **Ten Years Ago**

### ***Good-bye***



After sixteen years, this month we say good-bye to Melissa who has bought her sheep-skin coat, learnt to pronounce Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwyll-llantysiliogogoch, and is off to join the Welsh Guards band as a Lance-Corporal. We wish her all the best for the future.

Lewis is taking over Melissa's duties on flugel-horn, whilst Fred has moved to assistant-principal third cornet and will be making his area debut in March.

## **Fifteen Years Ago**

### ***Examination Results***



Congratulations to Lewis (cornet grade 4 with distinction), Rob (cornet grade 3 with merit), Pete (tenor trombone grade 3) and Ben (tenor horn grade 3 with merit) who all passed their recent examinations.

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## Twenty Years Ago

### Historian Sharon



Sharon has been invited to lecture the Long Eaton History Society on the history of the band on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May. A loan of any memorabilia or old photographs will be most welcome.

## Twenty Five Years Ago

### Tips From The Horn Section

All flugel horn players need a Lisa to tell them when to make their entry.

*Dave Gilbert (Flugel Horn)*

I don't know why, but the mellow tones of a tenor horn being practised fails to lull hospital patients to sleep.

*Lisa Balsom (Tenor Horn)*

I don't know why, but the mellow tones of a tenor horn being practised at 2 a.m. annoys the neighbours.

*Colin Millns (Tenor Horn)*

The tenor horn is sadly unappreciated.

*The Tenor Horn Section*

The flugel horn is sadly unappreciated, and every one knows it is the hardest instrument in the band to play.

*The Flugel Horn Section (Dave Gilbert)*

Except principal cornet

*James Dennis (Unprincipled 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 notifications from the Vento app 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	28 <sup>th</sup> March	7:00 p.m.	Chilwell Memorial Hall, 129 High Road, Chilwell	NG9 4AT
Saturday	25 <sup>th</sup> April	2:00 p.m.	Longmoor Lodge, 114 Longmoor Lane, Sandiacre	NG10 5JP
Saturday	19 <sup>th</sup> September	11:00 a.m.	Sandiacre Friendship Hub Sandiacre Methodist Church, 7 Bennet Street, Sandiacre	NG10 5RB

# The Silver Prize: February 2026

## 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 notifications from the Vento app 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	17 <sup>th</sup> October	7:30 p.m.	Longcliffe Golf Club, Snells Nook Lane, Nanpantan, Loughborough	LE11 3YA
Saturday	24 <sup>th</sup> October	7:30 p.m.	Royal British Legion Concert St. Laurence's Church, Market Place, Long Eaton	NG10 1LJ
Saturday	31 <sup>st</sup> October	7:30 p.m.	Royal British Legion Concert Green Spire Church, Wharnccliffe Road, Ilkeston	DE7 5GF
Thursday	10 <sup>th</sup> December	9:30 p.m.	41 Club Annual Dinner, Donington Manor Hotel, 1 High Street, Castle Donington	DE74 2PP
Friday	11 <sup>th</sup> December	8:30 p.m.	Longcliffe Golf Club, Snells Nook Lane, Nanpantan, Loughborough	LE11 3YA
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

# The Silver Prize: February 2026

## 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

