

The Silver Prize

The Journal of the Long Eaton Silver Prize Band



Newsletter No. 287

April 2026

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Band Room News

Easter Rehearsals

The training band and beginners' groups will be rehearsing on Monday 30th March but will be taking Easter Monday (5th April) off.

Band's A.G.M.

The band's A.G.M. will be on Wednesday 22nd April at 7:30 p.m. (to be followed by a senior band rehearsal). Please be thinking of whom you would like to be representing you on the committee next year (the incumbents are listed at the back of this newsletter), or whether you would like to be on the committee yourself!

Please note that all members of the senior and training bands, and the beginners' groups, including juniors, are entitled to attend the A.G.M., to vote and to become a member of the committee.

Kevin Massey

The band sends its condolences to Michelle, the daughter of Kevin Massey following his recent death. Kevin was the band's auditor for many years and was a regular dep on the front row for the band in the early years of Sharon's musical directorship. Some of the band will be playing hymns before his funeral at Trent Valley Crematorium on Monday 13th April.

Beginners' Groups Promotions

Congratulations to Rebecca, who is moving up to the training band.

Dave Breakwell

The band is most grateful to Dave Breakwell who has donated a cornet to the training band.

Vento

Please respond with your availability for all the band jobs on Vento, so we know whether we need to find deps, or in the case of the training band, how many chairs are needed.

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.

Ten Years Ago

Sharon

Congratulations to our musical director, Sharon, whose superb soprano cornet playing helped Newhall to gain 4th place at the area and promotion to the second section.

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Notes from the Musical Director



Thank you for all your hard work for the area. Overall, it was a good performance, and substantially better than our run-out at NEMBBA. The remarks highlight what we need to work on as a band; in particular maintaining total concentration throughout each performance so we eradicate the silly slips that were primarily the main difference between qualification and 6th. Nevertheless, we achieved our primary objective of securing our place in the third section and we can look forward to next year's area with more confidence.

I was also pleased with our performance at our joint concert with Sing West Hallam. There was lots of very good playing, despite the lack of rehearsal time after the area, but again individual lapses in concentration resulted in a few dodgy bars before we recovered. Thank you to Lizzie and Emma from the choir for organising it and to our

deps for filling gaps caused by holidays and work shifts.

I was also delighted with the training band's performance at Chilwell Memorial Hall. It is a long time since our training band gave a full concert (which was much longer than our weekly rehearsals), but we maintained a good standard throughout, including our new pieces which we had not rehearsed much. Thank you to Ben, Rebecca and James for helping to fill gaps caused by holidays.

Looking forward, our senior band have our joint concert with Thoresby Colliery Band at St. Laurence, followed by the Whit Friday marches, whilst our training band are playing at Longmoor Lodge and then the carnival! I would like to see a full training band turnout at Longmoor Lodge, but we are restricted to only 30 players on the lorry for the carnival: please complete Vento so we know who is available. Please remember to let Nikki know if you wish to join our carnival float design team!

Five Years Ago

Notes from the Musical Director



Hello everyone, from the 29th March, we have been able to meet outside in groups of up to six (some of us have already started), and hopefully from Monday 17th May we will be able to start full band rehearsals indoors (training band 7-8 p.m. followed senior band for those that would like to come!!).

Our first band job provisionally could be Sunday 13th June in West Park, so we don't have long to prepare! Although not actually mandated, we will initially continue to follow the risk assessments we wrote last year i.e. hand gel wipes social distancing where possible.

From 12th April we can all rehearse outside if we can find a suitable venue!!

I was also able to start teaching children indoors again from 29th March, but adult face-to-face lessons are still banned: I remain happy to help anyone over Zoom, Facebook Messenger or even the phone. I look forward to seeing you all in May if not before !!

Fifteen Years Ago

Awards for All

The band is the grateful recipient of an £8,890 from Awards for All to replace our central heating system. Thank you also to Sharon & James who completed all the paperwork and successfully applied for this grant on our behalf.



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Notes from Bedworth Civic Hall (Midlands Regional Championships)

Results: Third Section

1. Market Rasen (Peter Richardson)
2. Shirebrook Miners Welfare Band (Chris Banks)
3. Avonbank (Evesham) (Micah Parsons)
6. Long Eaton Silver Prize Band (James Dennis)

Adjudicator's Comments

Stan Lippeatt

1 Good start. Just the odd muted blip. Bar **16** well done horn. Bar **25** confident cornet just the odd blip spoils the flow. Bar **42** euph could be more confident. Bar **49** good horns. Good build to **76**. **77** Good drama. **88**→ Good clean playing. **104**→ Soloists could be more secure. Bar **112** Better start this time. Booms from lower brass in **124/125**.

2 Good start. Confident cornet. Bar **48** well balanced. also good dynamic contrasts noted. **106** Good bass line. **126** Euphs could lead more at mp. Builds well to **174**. Ending good.

3 Untidy start from Troms. **114**→ Good rhythmic playing. **30**→ Good control made of dynamic contrasts. **59**→ Good lower brass. Good cornet just the odd blip spoils the flow again. Good build to **112**. The ending could have had more drama.

A performance with a lot to admire just the odd blips.

Thank you

Jack Capstaff

Top Withens

Well balanced and confident to open. Cornets recovers well from an unfortunate start. **16** Lovely dolce horn + great phrasing. Nice cornet sound and phrase – just the odd blemish detracting. Nice build to **38** just watch the accomp doesn't drown out the euph at **42**. **49** is well organised, if not entirely cantabile. **65** accents not all unified + balanced. **77** – we don't hear trombones. Nicely shaped to **87** and generally well balanced. **95** more quavers needed. **104** doesn't speak together. Nice doloroso solos though + great horn+btn! More confident on the recap. Together if heavy to close.

Three Bells

Good bells to open and a nice decay to the sound to the waltz lilts nicely. Generally v. nice cornets – just the odd break in the sound. **48** tutti sound works and melody/counter are organised well. **76** needs more muted cornet. Poco scherzando could be lighter – but nice glock! **114** good sound = nice balance in soli lines. **126** cantabile is nice - just watch the tuning to the end of phrase. **162** note quite vertical. Great ending.

Worth Valley Railway

Horns and cornets record a scrappy opening. It builds well to **15** which is nicely organised and rhythmic. **39** we just lose some of the quaver detail. **51** nice trombones and good sop/tuba at **59**. **78** is well organised if a little heavy for mp dolce. **101** good shape but p could be better. Good sounds to close – just heavy in timps.

Overall some good playing here and shape, just inconsistencies in delivery – slips, uncentered notes that could be reduced to elevate this even further.

Thank you.

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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 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	25 th April	2:00 p.m.	Longmoor Lodge, 114 Longmoor Lane, Sandiacre	NG10 5JP
Saturday	20 th June	10:00 a.m.	Long Eaton Carnival West Park (park in field opposite Tesco)	
Saturday	19 th September	11:00 a.m.	Sandiacre Friendship Hub Sandiacre Methodist Church, 7 Bennet Street, Sandiacre	NG10 5RB
Sunday	15 th November	10:00 a.m.	NEMBBA Training Band Entertainment Contest (provisional) The Post Mill Centre, Market Street, South Normanton	DE55 2EJ
Saturday	28 th November	3:00 p.m.	Sandiacre Christmas Lights Opposite White Lion, Derby Road, Sandiacre	NG10 5HW

Twenty Years Ago

National Finals

As you will be aware, we have accepted our invitation to compete in the third section National Finals in Harrogate. We will be staying in Harrogate from Friday evening, 22nd September to Sunday afternoon, 24th September.

Twenty Five Years Ago

Tips From The Trombone Section

Trombones are the only perfect instrument (violins claim to be perfect also, but what happens when their cat gut breaks?)

The Trombone Section

Wear sunglasses at rehearsal. Our M.D.'s sylph-like figure and dazzling, radiant beauty may prevent you from seeing the baton.

Rob (Principal Trombone, and Besotted Husband)

Watch out for euphonium players: they like to move their chairs backwards and dent your slide.

The Trombone Section

Play real fortissimos: this discourages the euphonium section from moving their chairs backwards.

The Trombone Section

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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 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	18 th April	7:30 p.m.	Joint concert with Thoresby Colliery Band St. Laurence's Church, Market Place, Long Eaton	NG10 1LJ
Friday	29 th May	11:00 a.m.	Whit Friday marches (provisional) Bus from bandroom	
Sunday	14 th June	2:00 p.m.	West Park, Long Eaton (Enter West Park from the end of Lime Grove)	NG10 4LD
Saturday	26 th September	7:00 p.m.	Charity Concert for the Red Cross Mapperley Social Club, Plains Road, Nottingham	NG3 5RH
Saturday	17 th October	7:30 p.m.	Longcliffe Golf Club, Snells Nook Lane, Nanpantan, Loughborough	LE11 3YA
Saturday	24 th October	7:30 p.m.	Royal British Legion Concert St. Laurence's Church, Market Place, Long Eaton	NG10 1LJ
Saturday	31 st October	7:30 p.m.	Royal British Legion Concert Green Spire Church, Wharncliffe Road, Ilkeston	DE7 5GF
Thursday	5 th November	7@:20	Festival of Remembrance Winding Wheel Theatre, 13 Holywell Street, Chesterfield	S41 7SA
Sunday	15 th November	10:00 a.m.	NEMBBA Own-Choice Test-piece Contest (provisional) The Post Mill Centre, Market Street, South Normanton	DE55 2EJ
Thursday	10 th December	9:30 p.m.	41 Club Annual Dinner, Donington Manor Hotel, 1 High Street, Castle Donington	DE74 2PP
Friday	11 th December	8:30 p.m.	Longcliffe Golf Club, Snells Nook Lane, Nanpantan, Loughborough	LE11 3YA
Sunday	20 th December	2:30 p.m.	Christmas in Brass (Matinee) Duchess Theatre, West Gate, Long Eaton	NG10 1EF
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
Nicola Fretwell		nikki.fretwell@gmail.com
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
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
Roy Varney	A donation of a Strad. flugel.
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
Dave Breakwell	A donation of a cornet

