

# *The Silver Prize*

## The Journal of the Long Eaton Silver Prize Band



**Newsletter No. 289**

**June 2026**

# ***The Silver Prize: June 2026***

## **Band Room News**

### ***Adele and Andy***

The band sends its condolences to Adele and her family following the recent death of her husband, Andy.

### ***John Blackburn***

The band continues to send our best wishes to our vice-president, and former president, John, as he recovers in hospital.

### ***Sarah Measures***

Congratulations to Sarah, who has reached her fiftieth birthday relatively intact. We also wish her a speedy recovery following her (non-motorcycling related) eye procedure.

Commiserations also to Sarah's Greeves motorcycle, which may be beyond economic repair.

### ***Whit Friday Marches***

The band won the third section prize at Scouthead and Austerlands: our first ever placing at the Whit Friday marches!

### ***Duchess Theatre Christmas Concerts***

Our two Christmas concerts at the Duchess theatre are almost sold out. As the time of writing, there are only four tickets available for the matinee and one for the evening performance.

### ***Vento***

Please respond with your availability for all the band jobs on Vento, so we know whether we need to find depts, 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.

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## **Notes from the Musical Director**



Thank you to everyone from both bands who led the Civic Parade in Chesterfield for the inauguration of the new mayor. Due to the short notice, we only had around 20 players parading, but the mayor was delighted with our performance. Thank you to the cornet contingent from Carlton Brass who helped us out.

Well done everyone who played at the Whit Fridays. Winning the third section at Scouthead was an exceptional achievement for the band and we also had a 10<sup>th</sup> at Friezland. Our other results (48<sup>th</sup> of 81 at Lydgate, 34<sup>th</sup> of 57 at Uppermill and 50<sup>th</sup> of 63 at Grotton) were not too bad either. Overall, I was very pleased with our standard of playing. It was a shame we did not manage to get a 6<sup>th</sup> contest in and make the overall classifications, but it was a very busy Whit Fridays. Thank you to everyone who organised our coach tour of Saddleworth and to our deps, Luke, Elliott,

Catherine, Kevin, Calvin, Johnnie and Dathan.

Our training band are now in the final stages of preparation for the Long Eaton Carnival. The chairs on the float are now allocated (we had a limit of 30) and Nikki's float decorating team are poised for action! After this we have a break from band jobs, but not rehearsals (!), until September. Please let us know whether you wish to attend the NEMBBA contest in November: we need to decide on whether to enter and defend our title and around half of you are yet to indicate your availability.

Our senior band now look forward to West Park and then a Proms concert in Loughborough. Again, please complete Vento so we can decide on whether to enter the NEMBBA entertainment and own-choice contests.

## **Five Years Ago**

### ***Notes from the Musical Director***



Sadly, our first rehearsals on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May were cancelled due to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) forgetting that their remit extends beyond sport and so omitting to provide the guidelines for amateur groups (such as ourselves) to resume rehearsals (the guidelines for sports groups were published in April). After protests from many bands (including us), the guidelines were finally made available on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>, which at least enabled the senior band to meet on the Wednesday. It was great to meet everyone after so long.

The senior band have a band job on July 10<sup>th</sup>, so we do not have long to prepare. For now, we are meeting on Mondays (8:30 p.m. after training band) and Wednesdays: I expect we will revert to Wednesdays only once the novelty of returning to band has worn off!

Thank you to Catherine who is covering flugelhorn for us until Chris is able to return. Catherine has also finally made her first rehearsal, 14 months after she joined us! The band also welcomes Scott on Bb Bass (as solo Bb Bass for the hymns, after which Tony will join him for the rest of the rehearsal!).

Thank you to James and Macca for taking rehearsals whilst I have been on holiday, and I look forward to taking a training band rehearsal this month and meeting up with everybody else.

Thank you,  
Sharon

# The Silver Prize: June 2026

## 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	20 <sup>th</sup> June	10:00 a.m.	Long Eaton Carnival West Park (park in field opposite Tesco)	
Saturday	19 <sup>th</sup> September	11:00 a.m.	Sandiacre Friendship Hub Sandiacre Methodist Church, 7 Bennet Street, Sandiacre	NG10 5RB
Sunday	8 <sup>th</sup> November	9:30 a.m..	Remembrance Sunday Parade (with the Senior Band), Meet Beaconsfield Street Car Park, Long Eaton	NG10 1AY
Sunday	15 <sup>th</sup> November	10:00 a.m.	NEMBBA Training Band Entertainment Contest (provisional) The Post Mill Centre, Market Street, South Normanton	DE55 2EJ
Saturday	28 <sup>th</sup> November	3:00 p.m.	Sandiacre Christmas Lights Opposite White Lion, Derby Road, Sandiacre	NG10 5HW
Saturday	12 <sup>th</sup> December	7:00 p.m.	Christmas Carol Concert, Chilwell Memorial Hall, 129 High Road, Chilwell	NG9 4AT

### 2027

	Date	Start	Event	Post Code
Sunday	28 <sup>th</sup> February	10:00 a.m.	NEMBBA Training Band Entertainment Contest (provisional) The Post Mill Centre, Market Street, South Normanton, Derbyshire	DE55 2EJ

# The Silver Prize: June 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
Sunday	14 <sup>th</sup> June	2:00 p.m.	West Park, Long Eaton (Enter West Park from the end of Lime Grove)	NG10 4LD
Sunday	12 <sup>th</sup> July	2:00 p.m.	Proms Concert, Brush Bowls Club, Watermead Lane, Loughborough	LE11 3TN
Sunday	9 <sup>th</sup> August	12 noon	Ilkeston Heritage & Classic Vehicle Show, Market Place, Ilkeston,	DE7 5QA
Saturday	26 <sup>th</sup> September	7:00 p.m.	Charity Concert for the Red Cross Mapperley Social Club, Plains Road, Nottingham	NG3 5RH
Sunday	27 <sup>th</sup> September	All Day	NEMBBA Entertainment Contest (provisional) The Whitworth, Darley Dale, Derbyshire	DE4 2EQ
Saturday	17 <sup>th</sup> October	7:30 p.m.	Proms Concert, 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, Wharncliffe Road, Ilkeston	DE7 5GF
Thursday	5 <sup>th</sup> November	7:20 p.m.	Festival of Remembrance Winding Wheel Theatre, 13 Holywell Street, Chesterfield	S41 7SA
Sunday	8 <sup>th</sup> November	9:30 a.m..	Remembrance Sunday Parade (with the Training Band), Meet Beaconsfield Street Car Park, Long Eaton	NG10 1AY
Sunday	15 <sup>th</sup> November	10:00 a.m.	NEMBBA Own-Choice Test-piece Contest (provisional) The Post Mill Centre, Market Street, South Normanton	DE55 2EJ
Saturday	5 <sup>th</sup> December	4:00 p.m.	St. Laurence Church Christmas Concert St. Laurence's Church, Market Place, Long Eaton	NG10 1LJ
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

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## 2027

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Post Code</b>
Saturday	27 <sup>th</sup> February	10:00 a.m.	NEMBBA Area Test Piece Contest (provisional) The Post Mill Centre, Market Street, South Normanton, Derbyshire	DE55 2EJ
Saturday/ Sunday	20/21 <sup>st</sup> March	TBC	Area Contest Bedworth Civic Hall, High Street, Bedworth or United Church, Bulkington Road, Bedworth	CV12 8NF

## 2028

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Post Code</b>
Saturday/ Sunday/ Sunday	4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup> /12 <sup>th</sup> March	TBC	Area Contest Bedworth Civic Hall, High Street, Bedworth	CV12 8NF

# ***The Silver Prize: June 2026***

## **Ten Years Ago**

### ***Sarah Measures***

Congratulations to Sarah for somehow attaining 40 years of age, despite living in the (motorcycle) fast lane. The band made appropriate gifts to mark the occasion.



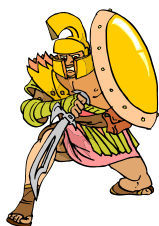
## **Fifteen Years Ago**

### ***Sarah Measures***

Congratulations to Sarah, this year's winner of the Progress Shield for being the training band's most improved player of the year.

The Progress Shield was donated by the Long Eaton branch of the Cooperative Party in memory of three former members.

## **Twenty Years Ago**



### ***Lisa Balsom***

Congratulations to Lisa on being the first recipient of the Centenary Shield as "Bandsman of the Year".

Many thanks to our president Roland Hosker for his donation of the Centenary Shield.

## **Twenty Five Years Ago**

### ***Band History***

In recent years, it has perhaps been easy to forget the glorious heritage that we as a band have inherited:

The band was founded as Long Eaton Silver Band in 1906. From the outset, the band found success in the numerous local contests of the time: in its first 30 years, the band won 27 first prizes, 19 second prizes, and added "Prize" to its name (a common practice in those days). In 1929, the band built the Silver Prize Band Club, using the prize money (ca. £700) it had accumulated.

An indication of the status of the band during the 1920's is that we were among the twenty-four bands invited to contest the first annual May Championship contest at Belle Vue in 1922 (and not to be confused with then long established September championships dating from 1853). The band has in its possession a newspaper cutting of the time, listing the band membership. As now, Long Eaton was a community band, comprising of players from Long Eaton (10), Ilkeston (5), Sandiacre (4), New Sawley (2), and Stapleford (1), with four players from Derby and one from Beeston making up the numbers. However, in those days, the band formation was a little different: with two soprano cornets, two repiano cornets (in addition to the flugel), five basses, but only one baritone.

The highlight of our glory years was the winning of the Cassell's Shield as Second Section National Champions at the Old Crystal Palace Building in 1927. Our web site includes a picture of the winning band.

As our centenary approaches, we may have a little way to go to emulate our forebears. Nevertheless, unlike many others, we have survived: many bands from our hey-day are no more, and many more are short of players. Within Erewash, only Ilkeston and we survive. We have a full band, are making good progress: our day will come again!

# The Silver Prize: June 2026

## 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
Safeguarding Champion (*)	Amy Redpath	
Band Sergeants	James Dennis	Sarah Measures
Publicity & Social Media	Kate Burrows	
Training Band Rep (*)	Nicola Fretwell	
Committee Members (*)	Andrew Beaumont James Dennis Ian Peberday	Heather Hoy Sarah Measures Karen Pitts
Newsletter Editors	Robert Stansfield	
Webmaster	James Mayell	Robert Stansfield
Auditors	Carl Ramplin, F.C.C.A.	Ian Peberday

(\*) indicates a committee member

# The Silver Prize: June 2026

## 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

