

The Silver Prize

The Journal of the Long Eaton Silver Prize Band



Newsletter No. 288

May 2026

The Silver Prize: May 2026

Band Room News

May Rehearsals

The training band and beginners' groups will not be rehearsing on either of the May bank holiday Mondays (4th May and 25th May).

Sharon

The band wishes Sharon a swift recovery from her recent heart procedure. She expects to be back at band on Wednesday.....

Adele and Andy

Congratulations to Adele and Andy on their wedding. We are all thinking of you both in these difficult times.

John Blackburn

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

Committee Changes from the AGM

Your new committee, as elected at the AGM, is listed at the end of this newsletter. The officers and committee are largely unchanged. Kim and Kate have retired from the committee, whilst we welcome Karen as their replacement and Amy as our Safeguarding Champion. We thank Kim especially for all her work as a committee member for 24 years, whilst Kate will still be managing our social media for us.

Examination Successes

Congratulations to Nikita (cornet) and Edward (euphonium) on them both gaining distinctions in their recent grade 4 examinations.

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.

The Silver Prize: May 2026

Notes from the Musical Director



Both our senior band and training band have enjoyed concerts this month.

The senior band played in a joint concert in St. Laurence Church with Thoresby Colliery Band. The evening went really well with both bands playing well: we have received a lot of good feedback both at the concert and subsequently on Facebook. Thank you to St. Laurence for hosting the event and to James D. and James M. for organising it and to our deps Simon, Calvin and Rob.

Our training band have a concert for the residents of Longmoor Lodge, which also went very well, with our invitation back expected shortly. Well done especially to

Daniel, who was playing "principal cornet" 😊, for the first time in absence of Henry at a cricket match.

Our training band now looks forward to Long Eaton Carnival with our 80s theme being organised by Nikki and her team. Please complete Vento if you wish to be on the float: it only holds 30! Please also 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!

Our senior band now looks forward to the Whit Friday marches: again, please complete Vento so we can find deps if necessary. The bus is paid for, but we will be asking for band member contributions again as we did for the area. Please also complete Vento so we decide on whether to enter the NEMBBA entertainment and own-choice test-piece contests

I have now had my heart procedure and so far, it is going well. I hope to back at band rehearsals next week.

Ten Years Ago

"Herzliche Glückwünsche"

Congratulations to Matt (Eb Bass) who has been promoted to the senior band and Finley (cornet) who has been promoted from the beginners' group to the training band.



Fifteen Years Ago

Councillor Bill Camm

The band is sad to record the death of our former president Councillor Bill Camm after a short illness.

Bill was president of the band for eighteen years between 1971 and 1989 and remained an active and generous supporter thereafter. In particular, the support by Bill of the band in the early 1970s was critical at a time when the band's future was in severe doubt.

Bill's funeral is on Friday 20th May at 12.30pm in All Saints' Church, Sawley.

Twenty Years Ago

Elma Ramplin

It is with deep regret that Long Eaton Silver Prize Band announce the death of their multi-talented tenor and flugel horn and cornet player Elma Ramplin (nee Nixon).

Elma had been diagnosed with cancer in September 2004 and had undergone chemotherapy and radiotherapy for much of the following time. However, she continued to play for the band whenever she could and managed to play for the band's new CD recorded last December and typically, she last played at the local church on Christmas Eve.

She became more ill recently and died peacefully at home on 14th April 2006, with her family with her.

The Silver Prize: May 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 | 16 th May | 10:30 a.m. | Civic Parade for the Mayor of Chesterfield (with the Senior Band), Chesterfield Town Hall, Rose Hill, Chesterfield | S40 1LP |
| 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 | 8 th November | 9:30 a.m.. | Remembrance Sunday Parade (with the Senior Band), Meet Beaconsfield Street Car Park, Long Eaton | NG10 1AY |
| 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 |
| Saturday | 12 th 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 th 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: May 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 | 16 th May | 10:30 a.m. | Civic Parade for the Mayor of Chesterfield (with the Training Band), Chesterfield Town Hall, Rose Hill, Chesterfield | S40 1LP |
| Friday | 29 th May | 11:00 a.m. | Whit Friday marches 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 |
| Sunday | 12 th July | 2:00 p.m. | Proms Concert, Brush Bowls Club, Watermead Lane, Loughborough | LE11 3TN |
| Sunday | 9 th August | 12 noon | Ilkeston Heritage & Classic Vehicle Show, Market Place, Ilkeston, | DE7 5QA |
| Saturday | 26 th September | 7:00 p.m. | Charity Concert for the Red Cross Mapperley Social Club, Plains Road, Nottingham | NG3 5RH |
| Sunday | 27 th September | All Day | NEMBBA Entertainment Contest (provisional) The Whitworth, Darley Dale, Derbyshire | DE4 2EQ |
| Saturday | 17 th October | 7:30 p.m. | Proms Concert, 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 p.m. | Festival of Remembrance Winding Wheel Theatre, 13 Holywell Street, Chesterfield | S41 7SA |
| Sunday | 8 th November | 9:30 a.m.. | Remembrance Sunday Parade (with the Training Band), Meet Beaconsfield Street Car Park, Long Eaton | NG10 1AY |
| 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 |
| Saturday | 5 th December | 4:00 p.m. | St. Laurence Church Christmas Concert St. Laurence's Church, Market Place, Long Eaton | NG10 1LJ |
| 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 |

The Silver Prize: May 2026

| | Date | Start | Event | Post Code |
|--------|---------------------------|-----------|--|-----------|
| 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 |

2027

| | Date | Start | Event | Post Code |
|---------------------|---------------------------|------------|--|-----------|
| Saturday | 27 th 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 st March | TBC | Area Contest Bedworth Civic Hall, High Street, Bedworth or United Church, Bulkington Road, Bedworth | CV12 8NF |

2028

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

Five Years Ago

Band Rehearsals

Subject to government confirmation about the continued relaxation of Covid restrictions, the training band and novices will resume rehearsals at 7 p.m. on Monday 17th May.

After completion of the training band rehearsal (at 8p.m.), players are requested to exit the building as quickly as possible to allow the band room to be sanitised for a senior band rehearsal at 8:30p.m. Senior band players are requested to remain in their cars until the training band players have departed. (8.20pm).

A full senior band rehearsal will be held on Wednesday 19th May from 7:30 p.m. The band's risk assessment is being updated and will be issued to all players beforehand. Please read this before coming to rehearsal.

Twenty Five Years Ago

Sharon

Sharon is back on 2nd May after a week sunbathing in Majorca, and a week playing in West Side Story at the Palace Theatre, Mansfield. Thanks to Carl for taking the rehearsals, but the message from your sister is: get back on the euphonium: the boss is back!

James, Matthew, and George

James, Matthew, and George will be missing rehearsals over the next two months due to them revising for some minor examinations: GSCE and "A" Levels. Whilst we wish them well, they would do well to consider the therapeutic benefit of a delightful evening of music upon their karma, as compared to the damage to their mental health of whole days spent watching Star Trek and Simpson videos, and

GET TO BAND ANYWAY!!!!

The Silver Prize: May 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: May 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 |

