

The Silver Prize

The Journal of the Long Eaton Silver Prize Band



Newsletter No. 290

July 2026

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Band Room News

John Blackburn

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

Dave Wright – Welcome Back!

The band welcomes back Dave Wright after over 50 years, who has joined both our senior and training bands on Bb Bass and has already played at concerts with both bands.

Steff Shakesheff

The band is most grateful to Steff, who has donated 2 trombones, a cornet and two trumpets to the band. Edward is already playing the JP Rath trombone in the training band.

Graham Healey

Thank you to Graham, who has repaired a number of our training band instruments, in return for a donation to the Alzheimer's Society

Tonfanau Brass Band

The ultimate meeting of the Tonfanau Road Races, at which Sarah and Ben have both previously won championships, will be on Sunday 30th August, after which the circuit is closing. The organisers have asked if we can provide a small band to mark the occasion. For further information, please talk to Sharon or Sarah.

Summer Rehearsals

Both our bands (and the beginners' classes) will continue over the summer (apart from the August bank holiday). Please remember to let us know on Vento when you are away on holiday (or on the WhatsApp group for the beginners' classes), and we may have a week off if too many people are away.

Duchess Theatre Christmas Concerts

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

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 signup 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



Well done to everyone in the training band who played at the Long Eaton Carnival. Thank you to Dave, Lisa, Calvin, Karen & Rob B. from the senior band who helped us out. Some of the recordings sound really good, and we have had lots of amazing feedback from those who heard us as we toured Long Eaton.

Thank you to Nikki and her team for decorating the float: it looked amazing, although sadly we didn't win a prize. Next year! Thank you also to our leaflet team, who walked the whole of the parade: hopefully this will help us recruit some new beginners and new training band jobs.

Our training band's next concert is in September, so we will have plenty of time to rehearse new pieces over the summer. However, if we do enter the NEMBBA entertainment contest, we will probably play much of our carnival repertoire.

Well done also to everyone who played at West Park, where we had a big crowd of around 300 listening. I was very pleased with our overall performance and received lots of good feedback afterwards. Thank you to Kirk, Elliott, Catherine and Dave for helping us out and of course to Mark for his percussion cameo.

We now look forward to a Proms concert in Loughborough and then to the Ilkeston Heritage & Classic Vehicle Show in August. Please remember to complete Vento, so we can invite depts to cover for those on holiday.

I am holiday from the end of July throughout August. Please practice hard (I will be) and I will be back in September as we prepare for big concert and contest season!

Ten Years Ago



Прощай

We say goodbye for the present to our Eb Bass player, Amy who is spending most of the coming 15 months abroad as part of her languages degree. Until December she will be putting her extensive training whilst part of our bass section to good use, by sampling vodka in Russia.

Vice President

The band thanks Councillor Val Custance, who has kindly agreed to become a vice-president of the band. Val has already performed her first duty with the band; presenting the Progress Shield to this year's winner at our awards evening.

Thank
You

Twenty Five Years Ago

Gerry Price

Gerry has resigned from the band due to personal reasons but is staying with Melbourne Town Band. The band wishes to thank him for his support over the last few years as player, chairman, and treasurer, and in particular for the fine start the junior band made under his direction.

Extraordinary A.G.M.

At the extraordinary A.G.M. following Gerry's departure, the band elected Carl Ramplin as chairman, Robert Stansfield as treasurer, and Elma Ramplin (assisted by Carl and James Dennis) as junior bandmaster.

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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	22 nd August	11:30 a.m.	Macmillan Coffee Morning Methodist Church Hall, 2 Derwent Street, Draycott	DE72 3NF
Saturday	19 th September	11:00 a.m.	Sandiacre Friendship Hub Sandiacre Methodist Church, 7 Bennet Street, Sandiacre	NG10 5RB
Sunday	27 th September	All Day	NEMBBA Entertainment Contest (provisional) The Whitworth, Darley Dale, Derbyshire	DE4 2EQ
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
Friday	20 th November	6:00 p.m.	Ockbrook Christmas Lights (with the Senior Band) Royal Oak, 55 Green Lane, Ockbrook Derby	DE72 3SE
Thursday	26 th November	5:30 p.m.	Long Eaton Christmas Lights (with the Senior Band) Market Place, Long Eaton	NG10 1LJ
Friday	27 th November	6:00 p.m.	Borrowash Christmas Lights (with the Senior Band) Coop, Victoria Avenue, Borrowash	DE72 3HE
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

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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
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, Wharcliffe 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
Friday	20 th November	6:00 p.m.	Ockbrook Christmas Lights (with the Training Band) Royal Oak, 55 Green Lane, Ockbrook Derby	DE72 3SE
Thursday	26 th November	5:30 p.m.	Long Eaton Christmas Lights (with the Training Band) Market Place, Long Eaton	NG10 1LJ
Friday	27 th November	6:00 p.m.	Borrowash Christmas Lights (with the Training Band) Coop, Victoria Avenue, Borrowash	DE72 3HE
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

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	Date	Start	Event	Post Code
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

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

Fifteen Years Ago



CD Sales

Thank you to all who have taken up the challenge of selling our remaining CDs. So far we have raised an astounding £382.82 since the A.G.M.!



Training Band Ties

Thank you, once again, to Professor Pete; for organising the training band's new ties; just in time for their winning performance at Staveley!

Notes from the Battles of the Bands

Result: Junior Battle of the Bands

1. Long Eaton Silver Prize Training Band
2. Thurcroft Colliery Training Band

Mrs. S. Stansfield, F.V.C.M. (Hons)
Chris Smith

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Twenty Years Ago

Whit Fridays

Our Results (in order of playing)

Area	Contest	Result
Tameside	Denton	29 of 46
Tameside	Hurst Cross	32 of 50
Saddleworth & Oldham	Lees & Springfield	38 of 51
Saddleworth & Oldham	Scouthead & Austerlands	26 of 65
Saddleworth & Oldham	Delph	68 of 75
Saddleworth & Oldham	Friezland	11 of 45
Tameside	Stalybridge Celtic	15 of 45

Special Awards

The Lees & Springfields contest presented us with the 70th anniversary medal in recognition of us celebrating our centenary. We reciprocated with a copy of our centenary CD.

Our Coach Driver, Chris

A special thank you to our coach (not bus) driver, Chris: a coach driver can make or break an outing like this – Chris helped make it a special day for the band!

A special thank you for his patience and driving skill in extricating us when we directed him down a rapidly narrowing street trying to get of the traffic jam in Greenfield.

Getting Lost Award

Congratulations to George and Jacob for being the only two members of the band to get themselves lost. At least they had the sense to keep the percussion equipment with them to make sure that we sent out our search parties, rather than just leave them behind!

Notes from the Brass & Trams Entertainment Contest (Crich Tramway Museum)

Result: Fourth Section

1) Carlton Brass	T. Wilson	79 pts
2) Bakewell Silver	M. Wilcockson	78 pts
3) Long Eaton Silver Prize	S. Stansfield, L.V.C.M. (Hons)	77 pts
4) Rolls Royce (Derby)	M. Glover	Withdrew

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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
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

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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
Steff Shakesheff	A donation of two trombones, two trumpets and a cornet.

