

The Silver Prize

The Journal of the Long Eaton Silver Prize Band



Newsletter No. 293

October 2026

The Silver Prize: October 2026

Band Room News

Mark Thomas

Our training band thanks it's repiano cornet, Mark Thomas, for his donation of a set of Beauty and the Beast.

Red Cross Charity Concert

Our charity concert with the Major Oak Chorus raised £1,461 for the Red Cross.

Area Date

Our area date has been confirmed for Sunday 21st March, with the third section starting at 10:00 a.m. We will be playing in the Bedworth Civic Hall.

Remembrance Parade

We have yet to receive the final details (including the route) of this year's parade on Sunday 8th November: obviously we will be unable to march down the High Street whilst its resurfacing is in progress. Similarly, car parking is going to be difficult with half of Beaconsfield car park and one of the West Gate car parks closed. Please start planning car sharing and alternative car parks and allow extra time beforehand. Please also remember, we would like as many as possible in the parade: we have numbered over 50 in the past!

Christmas Tree Festival

Our training band is providing a decorated tree for the Christmas Tree Festival at St. Laurence. Please see Nikki for more details.

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. If necessary, please reply with Maybe and a note of when you can let us know your availability.

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.

The Silver Prize: October 2026

Notes from The Whitworth, Darley Dale (North East Midlands Brass Band Entertainment Contest)

Results

1. Blidworth Welfare Band (Colum O'Shea)
2. Shirland Welfare Band (Lynden Cooper)
3. Strata Brass (David Holling)
7. Long Eaton Silver Prize Band (James Dennis)
9. Long Eaton Silver Prize Training Band (Sharon Stansfield)

Adjudicator's Comments (Leigh Baker)

Senior Band

Ravenwood: Tight to open – not all syncopated rhythms quite land together. Watch the 'boom' of the room perc. Dynamics generally good – just the odd blip. The 'bass solo' section is bold and colourful – but not quite together rhythmically. Well played.

Guardian Of My Soul: Watch the pp dynamics – you are less comfortable quieter (aren't we all!). Nicely shaped phrases through **A + B**. Good build to **D**. Well done soloist at **E** – accomps could be more sympathetic. Keep tabs on tuning in unisons and octaves. Well done sop. Nicely spaced close. I dare you to push your lower dynamics though!

Paragon: Great cornet sound and style from soloist – old school. Accomps could be less intrusive. Well shaped cadenza. Polka – technique is good – tripling is great! Just the odd blip (as you know). Well done.

Fat Bottom: Well done horns + baris to open. Just the odd syncopated rhythm wobble. Make sure we hear soloists (e.g. sop at **E**). Great fun thanks.

Prismatic Light: Good detail to open. Not all bar lines land together (with perc). So much colour on show. Well done timps! Consistency is the key though.

Training Band

Baggy Trousers: Amazing to see such a wide age range – well done all. Detail is good and percussion drives us forward well. Try and do even more dynamic contrasts though. Great fun!

Such Love: Confident soloist – really nice sound and phrasing, vibrato is great. You seem like you know the words as it's shaped spot on. Just a few blips in accomps. Well done sop! Lovely stuff.

Ghostbusters: Spooky to open – can it be quieter for mp? Good rhythms – watch tuning on long notes at **D**. **H** Great ff. You aint afraid of no rhythms!!

Young Amadeus: Watch key (change) euphs/baris. It flows well and is tight. Great sop contributions. Good sounds to close – watch tuning at all times. You play so well together and watch your fabulous conductor well.

Pastime: Good style and shape. Well done percussion. **C** Great dynamics here, contrast is excellent. Well played.

The future of banding indeed – absolutely loved the mix of music and so much to admire. Fabulous enthusiasm. Thanks.

Star players – soloist, sop + kit.

The Silver Prize: October 2026

Notes from the Musical Director



Both our bands had a busy in September, culminating in the NEMBBA Entertainment Contest. Our training band had two band jobs on the same day, starting by playing for the Sandiacre Friendship Hub and finishing as the closing act for the Erewash Gala celebrating the opening of the new West Park bridge, and playing on the West Park bandstand for the first time. Our concert for the Sandiacre Friendship Hub was highly appreciated, so much so that they have already booked us twice for next year! Thank you to Dan Whitt for conducting the evening performance at the Gala, and thank you to the Mayor of Erewash, Councillor Greg Maskalick, for his kind words to the training

band afterwards.

Our annual concert for the Red Cross, with the Major Oak Chorus, was also very successful: we are already in discussions for next year's event. Thank you to our dep euphonium section, Calvin on baritone and Phil on sop.

Our training band played exceptionally well at the entertainment contest: entering this contest was never about winning – all the other bands are contesting bands – it was about supporting NEMBBA, experience and showing everyone the future of brass banding. As you can tell from the remarks, we more than achieved this. Well done especially to Henry, Heather and Dan.

Our senior band also played very well: it was just that the overall standard was very high. We are progressing very well as a band, and we will continue to work on our remaining weaknesses both in my concert rehearsals and in James's contest rehearsals. We have another six months of improvement to go before the next area contest! Thank you to Phil and Calvin for depping on sop and baritone respectively for us.

We now approach the really busy season the year: Remembrance, followed by the NEMBBA own-choice contest and then Christmas. Please remember to keep Vento up to date, and for the smaller band jobs, please decide within your sections which of the jobs you will be doing, so that all the parts are always covered.

Notes from the Contest Conductor

Well done today everyone! I know 7th out of 9 doesn't feel like a great result, but we have to look at how far we've come - we played better today than we have done in a long time, and a lot of the problems we had are nowhere near the issues they used to be. I think the remarks were very fair - the adjudicator singled out particular players for praise, including Nana and Sarah, and noted that the things we need to work on are ensemble and dynamics (I wonder where I've heard that before?! 🤔🤔).

All in all, it was a really good performance - there were some moments, especially in Guardian and Prismatic, that hinted at the quality that we have the potential for. Of course it would have been nice to get a few scalps, but that's contesting for you!

This was always meant to be a stepping stone, so the next challenge awaits! Really looking forward to what we make of Fire in the Blood - it's an ambitious aim for us, but I am sure you will all rise to the occasion!

The Silver Prize: October 2026

Five Years Ago

Sarah – Our Cover Girl & Champion



The last weekend in September was a very special one for our training band's principal cornet and senior band's front-row player.

Racing her Greaves 197cc road motorbike at Cadwell Park (against 250cc bespoke racing bikes), Sarah not only made the cover of the weekend's racing programme, but our reigning Tonfanau motor-bike champion added to her laurels by not only winning her first ever race at Cadwell but, combined with her exploits

earlier in the year at Darley Dale & Pembury, finished as the overall British Historic Racing pre 1963 250cc Motorcycle champion for 2021 (and ahead of a bike originally custom built for the Isle of Man TT Races!).

Team Measures was as usual cheered throughout by her large supporters' group from the band. Well done to Sarah, her mechanic Beardy Stu, and to Ben, who won his first racing championship on his home-built Honda CGR.

From Rebecca Weller

Thank you to everyone who sponsored me for the Robin Hood half marathon. It has raised £615 towards the NGS Macmillan Unit at Chesterfield Royal Hospital who treated Mum for seven years. A substantial portion of the money raised has been from members of the band.

Ten Years Ago

Notes from the Cadwell Park

The motorcycle racing division of the band was at Cadwell Park last week for their last meeting of the year, and a number of the band took the opportunity of a band camp to support them.

Ably supported by their mechanic, "Beardy" Stu, who was not racing this time, our dynamic duo of Sarah and Ben had a very successful meeting, coming second in all of their seven races. Taking the main honours on his debut racing was Ben, who not only set a new lap record in his class, but powered his self-built Honda 125 past a number of 350 to 500cc bikes to come second in the novice race!

Twenty Five Years Ago

Official At Last!

After almost a year of publication, the committee has sanctioned this newsletter as the official journal of the band.

Training Band

The band has recruited five new members.

As part of the lottery bid, and in recognition that some of its members are one or two years past their eighteenth birthday, the junior band has been renamed the "Long Eaton Silver Prize Training Band".

Any help with Training band, either by mentoring members in rehearsal, or with suggestions for suitable music for small ensembles will be appreciated.

Many thanks to Richard, Elma, and Jamesie-pops for assisting Sharon in rehearsal.

The Silver Prize: October 2026

Fifteen Years Ago

Help for Heroes

Our Help for Heroes charity concert raised £712.19. Thank you to all 66 players who took part in the concert, to those who donated raffle prizes, to Marie Cowley for the cake (the raffle of which raised £143) and to all those who contributed so generously.



Music Marathon



Thank you to our guests who helped us out during our marathon, including representatives from Rolls Royce (Derby) and Carton Brass bands (in particular Trev. Hughes who did most of the marathon), soloists Andy Ward and Deena, Rock 'n' Roll (Nottingham) and guest conductor Colin Hartley.

Thank you also to Marie Cowley and Helen Grimoldby for the stalls, our bar staff for the supply of coffee and other beverages.

Finally thank you to all of you who were present for some (or all) of the 24 hours, and to those who sponsored the band.

To date (with a small amount to come in), the music marathon has raised

£2651.79.

Twenty Years Ago

Our Press Release

Long Eaton Silver Prize Band Third Section National Champions of Great Britain

On Saturday, the Long Eaton Silver Prize Band won its first national title in 79 years, becoming the Third Section Brass Band Champions of Great Britain. Under the direction of Sharon Stansfield, a magnificent rendition of Gordon Langford's Sinfonietta won the plaudits of both adjudicators and left the band clear winners ahead of sixteen other bands. Sharon, one of only four lady conductors of the 72 bands present at this year's championships, also became the first woman to lead a band to the third section national championship.

The Long Eaton Silver Prize Band was founded in 1906 and enjoyed much success in its early years: the highlight being its win at the prestigious Crystal Palace contests in 1927. However, by 1999, the band was in decline, with only 15 members and its future participation in brass band contesting in doubt. The return of Sharon Stansfield in 2000 was to provide the inspiration for a return to the band's past glories. In six years, the band's membership, including its reinstated training band, has risen to 81, and the band has qualified for the national championships three times in five years and in its centenary year, now holds the Midland Area and National titles for the first time in its history. Sharon is also the first musical director to lead the band to placings at two national championships, following the band's second place in the fourth section in 2003.

The day was extra special for Ted Bradley (70), the band's former solo euphonium player, secretary, bandmaster, conductor and junior teacher who, with the late Sid Bland, taught our training band in the early 1970s. Of his former pupils, Sharon now leads the band; Carl Ramplin is the band's solo euphonium, whilst Graham Jacklin conducted another East Midlands band, Leicestershire Cooperative Charnwood Snibston into fourth place.

The band's civic centenary concert will be in St. Laurence's Church, Long Eaton on 28th October. All are welcome to this concert, where our trophies will be on display. Entry will be free, but there will be a collection in aid of band funds and for cancer research in memory of the band's former flugel horn player, who died earlier this year.

For more details visit our website www.lespb.co.uk, email sharon@lespb.co.uk or ring 07887 907516.

The Silver Prize: October 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
Sunday	8 th November	9:30 a.m..	Remembrance Sunday Parade (with the Senior Band)	NG10 1AY
Sunday	15 th November	10:00 a.m.	NEMBBA Training Band Entertainment Contest 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	28 th November	5:00 p.m.	Christmas Carols in Draycott St. Mary's Church Hall, Victoria Road, Draycott	DE72 3PS
Sunday	29 th November	4:00 p.m.	Sawley Christmas Lights (with the Senior Band) Sawley Memorial Hall, Draycott Road, Sawley	NG10 3FR
Saturday	5 th December	10:00 a.m.	St. Mary's Church Christmas Coffee Morning St. Mary's Church Hall, Victoria Road, Draycott	DE72 3PS
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
Saturday	16 th January	11:00 a.m.	Sandiacre Friendship Hub Sandiacre Methodist Church, 7 Bennet Street, Sandiacre	NG10 5RB
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
Saturday	18 th September	11:00 a.m.	Sandiacre Friendship Hub Sandiacre Methodist Church, 7 Bennet Street, Sandiacre	NG10 5RB

The Silver Prize: October 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	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)	NG10 1AY
Sunday	15 th November	10:00 a.m.	NEMBBA Own-Choice Test-piece Contest 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
Sunday	29 th November	4:00 p.m.	Sawley Christmas Lights (with the Senior Band) Sawley Memorial Hall, Draycott Road, Sawley	NG10 3FR
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
Sunday	13 th December	10:30 a.m.	Derbion Shopping Centre, London Road, Derby	DE1 2PL
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

The Silver Prize: October 2026

	Date	Start	Event	Post Code
Thursday	24 th December	3:30 p.m.	Crib Service, St. Laurence's Church, Market Place, Long Eaton	NG10 1LJ

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
Sunday	14 th March	2:00 p.m.	Concert for the League of Friends of Ilkeston Hospital Presley's, Dallimore Road, Kirk Hallam	DE7 4GZ
Sunday	21 st March	From 10:00 a.m.	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



The Silver Prize: October 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 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: October 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
Steff Shakesheff	A donation of two trombones, two trumpets and a cornet.
A Cadbury's Trust	A donation of £3,000
Sawley W.I.	A donation of £400
Mark Thomas	A set of music (Beauty and the Beast)