

The Silver Prize

The Journal of the Long Eaton Silver Prize Band



Newsletter No. 292

September 2026

The Silver Prize: September 2026

Band Room News

John Blackburn

John Blackburn's funeral is on Thursday 3rd September at 2:30 p.m. at Trent Valley Crematorium. A few of the band will be playing hymns beforehand.

Brian Draper

The band sends its condolences to Claire, following the loss of her father Brian Draper. Brian was a good friend to the band, offering advice to Sharon in her early years as a conductor, and providing us with some excellent arrangements, particularly of swing music. Brian was also a vice-president and the vice-chair of NEMBBA and helped steward at all the contests.

Brian's funeral will be on Tuesday 15th September at 4:15 p.m. at Mansfield Crematorium.

Tonfanau

The ultimate meeting of the Tonfanau Road Races, at which Sarah and Ben have both previously won championships, was held on Sunday 30th August. Sarah won a final trophy, coming 2nd on her Yamaha.

To mark the occasion, and at the invitation of the organisers, Tonfanau Brass played to big audiences on the Saturday and Sunday evenings (the latter in torrential rain). Thank you to Sharon, James, Sarah, Elaine, Lisa, Stu and Ben augmented on auxiliary percussion by Dan, Pete, Sue and Caroline. A special thanks to Lisa for interrupting her holiday twice to come and play with us, and to Elaine who sorted all the music (Debbie, the music was the only thing which stayed dry!)

Duchess Theatre Christmas Concerts

Our two Christmas concerts at the Duchess theatre have sold out.

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: September 2026

Notes from the Musical Director



Thank you to James and Dan for taking rehearsals for me during my holidays and convalescence. I am looking forward to seeing you all on Wednesday and next Monday.

Thank you also to all of you who turned out for the concert at the Ilkeston Heritage & Classic Vehicle Show: I hear it was a big success again.

Likewise, thank you to everyone in the training band, and especially Dan Whitt, our dep conductor, who played at the Macmillan Coffee Morning in Draycott, helping to raise over £1,550.

Finally, thank you to everyone who made the trip to the mid-Welsh coast and made last Tonfanau races special for so many people with our two concerts. Sarah, Beady Stu and Ben will especially miss racing there (and more of us will miss supporting them, whilst wondering whether Sarah will make the next band rehearsal or be in hospital!).

We now look forward to a busy autumn and Christmas schedule, including the NEMBBA entertainment and own-choice test-piece contests. In particular, the training band are playing for the opening of the new West Park bridge; the first time our training band has played on the bandstand!

Please remember to complete Vento: it is important that we know well beforehand whether you can make concerts (and rehearsal), so we can arrange for deps if necessary.

Five Years Ago

Open Day

Sunday 12th September is the Band's Open Day, starting at 2pm. Please share with your friends and family and bring them along to get a feel for what the band is all about.

Ten Years Ago

Carl Ramplin

Carl has decided to leave the band to take up the solo euphonium seat at Kibworth. We thank him for all his work with the band in previous years and wish him all the best for the future.



Internal Band Moves

Ben Allen is moving from solo horn to replace Carl on solo euphonium, with Lewis Blackburn moving from solo cornet to fill Ben's place on solo horn and Emma Jedere-Fischer moving from the back row to the front row. Sharon is to invite a few more cornets in the training band to move up to third cornet. Fred and Professor Pete will act as vice-chairmen until the A.G.M.

Thank you to everyone for being so accommodating.

The Silver Prize: September 2026

Fifteen Years Ago

Music Marathon



Sharon has obtained a temporary events license from the council and our 24 hours music marathon in support of the band and its premises is going ahead, starting at 6 p.m. on Friday 2nd September. The bar will be open all night for the band and their invited guests only. It will also be serving caffeine beverages (tea and coffee) to keep us awake.

Please remember we will need **raffle prizes, tombola prizes** and also **buffet items** to keep the band going.

Thank you to all of you who are able to support the event for some or all of the 24 hours. Thank you also to those who are travelling to Shephed to fulfil the training band's engagement there.

Sharon will be issuing a rota for the band, and other musical combinations (duets, guest soloists) later this week.

Twenty Years Ago

Councillor Bill Camm

The band is profoundly grateful to Bill Camm for his donation of £300 to our Harrogate fund.

Bill Camm was our president in the 1970s and was instrumental in securing us loans and grants from the Long Eaton Urban District Council and its successor Erewash Borough Council at a time when the band's instruments were beyond repair and needed to be replaced to ensure the band's survival.



Twenty Five Years Ago

Extra-ordinary Meeting: 20 June 2001

The meeting was opened at 9.30 p.m. after band rehearsal.

The whole band was in attendance.

This meeting was held due to Gerry Price resigning from the band, leaving the posts of Chairman and Treasurer vacant

Chairman

Carl Ramplin was nominated by James Dennis for the position of Chairman, and was seconded by Maxine Shaw. All were in favour.

Treasurer

Robert Stansfield was nominated by Carolyn Bayliffe for the position of Treasurer, and was seconded by Maxine Shaw. All were in favour.

These positions will take place with immediate effect, and will continue until the AGM next year.

Junior Band

It was proposed that Elma Ramplin and James Dennis would run the junior band for the time being. All were in favour of these appointments.

Meeting closed 10 p.m.

The Silver Prize: September 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	19 th September	11:00 a.m.	Sandiacre Friendship Hub Sandiacre Methodist Church, 7 Bennet Street, Sandiacre	NG10 5RB
Saturday	19 th September	6:00 p.m.	Erewash Borough Council Gala West Park, Long Eaton	NG10 4LD
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
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
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: September 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
Thursday	3 rd September	2:30 p.m.	John Blackburn's Funeral (small band playing hymns beforehand) Trent Valley Crematorium, Derby Road, Aston-on-Trent	DE72 2AF
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 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
Sunday	29 th November	4:00 p.m.	Sawley Christmas Lights (with the Senior Band) Sawley Memorial Hall, Draycott Road, Sawley	NG10 3FR

The Silver Prize: September 2026

	Date	Start	Event	Post Code
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	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
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
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

The Silver Prize: September 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: September 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

