

The Silver Prize

The Journal of the
Long Eaton Silver Prize Band



Newsletter No. 272
December 2024

Band Room News

Mave Aram

The band sends its condolences to Jo and Julie and their families on the loss of their mother Mave, the widow of our late cornet player, chairman, and vice-president Fred, who suddenly died last month. Mave was a big supporter of the band, and the band played at her funeral which was held on the 20th December.

John Blackburn

The band send their best wishes to our former president, now vice-president, John Blackburn on his 90th birthday last month.

Christmas Rehearsals

The training band and beginners' group's last rehearsal in December is on Monday 9th December (since the training band has an engagement on the 16th and we thought you would like the 23rd December off). However, please do not forget all the band jobs! Rehearsals resume in the New Year on Monday 6th January.

The last rehearsal for the senior band this year will be on Wednesday 18th December (unless the Fun Committee make us a better offer!). We resume rehearsals for NEMBBA and the area on Wednesday January 8th (but please look at your part for Arkansas at home over the holiday season!).

Warm Spaces Grant

Sharon has secured a £1,000 grant to support our warm space over the winter, which will help us pay our electricity bill and service charge as well as provide for warm (non-alcoholic) drinks and biscuits at rehearsals.

Our Acrobatic Bass Player



Not many of us were previously aware, but Amy is playing "Nellie the Elephant" on one leg as her acrobatic tribute to Nellie being a circus elephant.

The lyrics also say "Night by night, she danced to the circus band", so we look forward to the dance moves being incorporated into the performance soon!

Val Custance

The band is most grateful to our vice-president, Val Custance, who has donated £100 to the band.

Medical Emergency at Draycott



The training band are most grateful to Lindsey, who, ineptly assisted by Sarah and Elaine, performed an emergency operation, without anaesthetic, on our beloved musical director, Sharon, after part of her hearing aid became embedded near her tympanic membrane during the training band's carol concert at St. Mary's, Draycott, Christmas coffee morning.

We are glad to report that the operation was successful, although not without some unexpected side-effects, as

Sharon subsequently developed a massive boil on her nose and an abnormal growth of her ears. Fortunately, these side-effects subsided after a couple of verses of Rudolph!

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 Rob (Mondays) or Kim (Wednesdays) after rehearsal. 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.

Notes from the Musical Director



Thank you to everyone for all your hard work in the run up to the NEMBBA contest. Our training band played really well, and many people were impressed by how many young players we had in the band (including me!). Well done especially to Elaine, our best instrumentalist, for an excellent solo and of course to Dan, who again has been singled out by an adjudicator for special praise!

The senior band too played very well. We had had a busy couple of months, with lots of concerts to rehearse for, which took away from contest rehearsal time, and we have had gaps at rehearsals due to illness, work commitments and holidays. Despite all this, Dimensions really

started to come together in the last week. David, in his remarks, has highlighted a few issues with how we played, but overall, I was delighted with our performance. As I said before the contest, the result did not matter this time: this was a test of how well we were rebuilding after our line-up changes this year, and I am more than happy with our progress.

Thank you to everyone for all the home practice you did, and well done to Debbie on her debut on solo euphonium, including two solos.

The following Thursday, we played at the annual Festival of Remembrance in the Winding Wheel, which again was a very successful concert, whilst on the Remembrance Sunday we had 40 on parade: with so many new players coming through, I want to get back to 50 next year! We were then back in action on the following Saturday, playing at Bramcote church, which again was very well received by the audience. Thank you to Rob Burrows, Chris, Teresa, Sheila, Mike for depping for players ill or on holiday, and well done again to Elaine, for depping this time on repiano cornet.

Thank you to the 20 of you who played carols on the tundra in Ockbrook; fortunately, it was a few degrees warmer for the Long Eaton (32 players) and Borrowash (23 players) Christmas lights and for the training band (24 players) at Draycott Community Carol Singing. We have had great turnouts for early performances, especially for the Thursday and Friday evenings; thank you to everyone who managed to rearrange their day so they could come and perform. As usual, all of our audiences have been very appreciative.

We have had a busy Christmas concert season, which is finishing with the crib service on Christmas Eve. We should all now have the parts to our area test piece Arkansas, so please have a look at it before we start our area rehearsals in the new year.

Finally, thank you for all your hard work this year, and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Successful New Year!

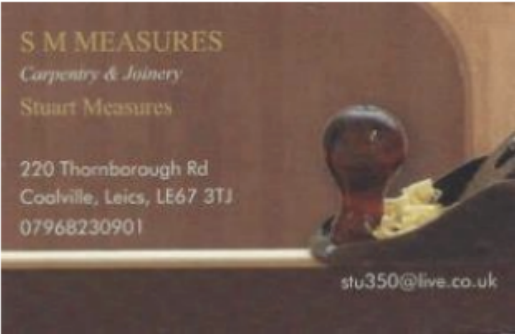
Training Band Diary

Sharon will be issuing engagement schedules with the actual start times once they have been confirmed. New additions are marked in green. Changes to the schedule are marked in red.

You should receive emails from Vento for these events, please respond to them with your availability to keep everything up to date, and let Sharon know if you can't make them so we can arrange dep players.

2025

Date	Start	Event	Postcode
Saturday 15th Feb	10:00am	NEMBBA training band entertainment contest The Post Mill Centre Market Street, South Normanton	DE55 2EJ



Band Diary

Lisa will be issuing engagement schedules with the actual start times once they have been confirmed. New additions are marked in green. Changes to the schedule are marked in red. You should receive emails from Vento for these events, please respond to them with your availability to keep everything up to date, and let Lisa or Sharon know if you can't make them so we can arrange dep players.

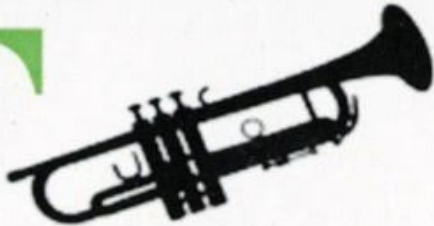
2025

Date	Start	Event	Postcode
Sunday 16th Feb	10:00am	NEMBBA area test piece contest The Post Mill Centre Market Street, South Normanton	DE55 2EJ
Saturday 8th March	7:00am	Area Contest Bedworth Civic Hall	CV12 8NF
Sunday 21st Dec	2:30pm	Christmas in Brass (Matinee) Duchess Theatre, Long Eaton	NG10 1EF
Sunday 21st Dec	7:30pm	Christmas in Brass (Evening) Duchess Theatre, Long Eaton	NG10 1EF

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BRASS INSTRUMENT

SERVICE AND REPAIR

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Personnel

Contacts

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Lisa Balsom	01332 677 863	lisa@lespb.org.uk
Deborah Redpath	0115 919 5990	j.redpath2@ntlworld.com
Robert Stansfield	07722 118 127	robert@lespb.org.uk

Website & Social Media

Our website address is <https://lespb.org.uk>

Our Facebook pages are:
<https://facebook.com/lespb> (Senior Band)
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/270405743010461/> (Training Band)

Our X (Twitter) account is @LESPB1906

NEMBBA Website: <http://www.nembba.org.uk/>
NEMBBA: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/nembba>
NEMBBA Youth Band: <https://www.facebook.com/NEMBBAYB>

Training Band Officers

Musical Director	Sharon Stansfield F.V.C.M. (Hons)	
Assistant Musical Directors	James Dennis	
Events Organiser / Secretary	Sharon Stansfield F.V.C.M. (Hons)	
Equipment Officer	Robert Stansfield	
Librarians	Deborah Redpath	Cheryl Allen
Beginners Group Teachers	James Dennis	Tracey Cooper
	Robert Stansfield	Stuart Measures

Band Officers and Committee

President	Councillor Kevin Miller	
Vice-Presidents	Fay Blackburn	Roland Hosker
	John Blackburn	Carl Ramplin F.C.C.A.
	Val Custance	
	Richard Walker PG Cert, DMS, CITP, MBSC, MAPM	
Honorary Life Members	Ted Bradley	Colin Millns
	Professor Pete Thomas	
	Sylvia Purnell	
Musical Director (*)	Sharon Stansfield F.V.C.M. (Hons)	
Assistant Musical Director	James Dennis	
Chairman (*)	Rob Guest	
Vice-Chairman (*)	Ian Peberday	
Secretary (*)	Lisa Balsom	
Contest Secretary	Lisa Balsom	
Training Band Secretary	Sharon Stansfield F.V.C.M. (Hons)	
Junior Rep	Daniel Nicholson	
Treasurer (*)	Robert Stansfield	
Equipment Officer	Robert Stansfield	
Assistant Equipment Officers (*)	Elaine Nicolson	
Librarian (*)	Deborah Redpath	
Assistant Librarians	Cheryl Allen	Amy Redpath
Band Sergeants	James Dennis	Sarah Measures
Publicity Officers	Sharon Stansfield F.V.C.M. (Hons)	
Committee Members (*)	Robert Burrows	Kim Larwood
	James Dennis	Sarah Measures
	Andrew Beaumont	
Newsletter Editor	James Mayell	
Webmaster	James Mayell	
Auditors	Ian Peberday	Carl Ramplin

(*) Indicates a committee member