**President's Award**

**Name of nominee:** Amanda Drury

**Group Name:** City of Lincoln Band

**How many members in the group:** 30

**Name of nominator:** Heather Payne

The band was formed in 1893 with the financial support of The Lincoln Malleable Iron Works. Since that time the band has undergone several name changes becoming the City of Lincoln Band in 1987. Whilst it remains proudly rooted in the traditions of brass banding, we recognise the need to serve our local community and meet their needs. We are a friendly community- based brass band with musicians of all ages and abilities. We simply enjoy playing together and entertaining people and although we do several large-scale paid events during the year, it is the little concerts at care homes, schools and the like that get us really excited! [https://cityoflincolnband.org/](https://url.uk.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/wQV2CGYo3sJPmqu7IoXd?domain=cityoflincolnband.org/)

Prior to Amanda joining the band, we had not thought about using technology, promotion, networking and PR to raise the profile of the band and to secure its future. From the ‘get go’, Amanda introduced us to using an APP so that we knew in advance who would be at practices or who was available to play at an event. It has revolutionised how we work. In tandem, she sets up WhatsApp groups for each event and ensures that all the details - venue, parking, dress code etc are at our fingertips. She has designed a new website and set up social media accounts (and posts on them) as well as ensuring that photos and videos are taken of each event for promotion purposes. She has networked with groups not previously interested in hiring a brass band and, as a result, we have had some very prestigious and high profile gigs. This year alone she got us on Radio 4 twice including playing live on the Money Box programme, serenading the runners on the Lincoln 10k route and being a focal point on the city‘s Ice Sculpture trail. This ‘outside the box’ thinking has opened up new possibilities for the band and as well as new audiences. She never turns away a charity or voluntary event and was instrumental in buying some 10-piece music books so we could play small gigs with a small band! She has a ‘can do’ attitude and as a result we now have new players coming into the band not from a brass-band background. We have a range of repertoires and band set ups depending on the gig and she successfully bid for a grant from the Community Chest so that we can do more for free within our local community. The band has been revolutionised by a passionate, creative thinker who looks for new opportunities and has the energy, vision and technical skill to make it happen. She also manages to fit in playing tenor horn as well. As a person who was new to banding, she has embraced the heritage of brass bands but not been limited in her thinking by the traditional perception of what and where they perform. Her positivity and enthusiasm are infectious. Her impact over the last 18 months has secured the future of the band so we can reach our next milestone - our sesquicentennial in 2043!

**Supporting evidence**

<https://cityoflincolnband.org/>