

Trevor Head: Training in Musical Instrument Repair Courses: 2026

Brass and Woodwind Courses - 2026

Welcome to a new season of wind instrument repair courses here at Llangunllo School in Mid-Wales.

New Repair specialists joining our team

I am extremely happy to welcome four new specialist repairers to join us here in Llangunllo for our 2026 season of specialist Brass and woodwind courses.

Firstly, Peter Lacey the founder and Brass Instrument Repair expert at West London Brass Repairs, and Ian Moseley founder and trombone specialist at Shrewsbury Brass Repairs.

On the Woodwind side, and teaching our very popular 'Saxophones Galore' course: John Pratt and Ben Plocki both Saxophone repair specialists from Headwind Music in Bristol.

General Courses information

All of our courses are suitable for those wishing to embark on a career in musical instrument repair, and anyone can attend.

Our courses are 'hands on' and are highly recommended by NAMIR (National Association of Musical Instrument Repairers) and the trade in general.

Enthusiastic amateurs, Instrumental music teachers and Musical instrument Retailers may also find the courses useful and rewarding.

There are no formal entry requirements to our foundation courses, and they are designed with the complete beginner in mind. However, you must have good hand/eye co-ordination and be a practical 'hands on' person.

Although not essential, some ability in playing an instrument in your chosen area will prove invaluable in 'trouble shooting' and checking an instrument before and after repair.

Instrument repair technicians require a great deal of patience and skill, also the willingness to try and try again until perfection is achieved.

Make these essential qualities your goal, and you will be well on your way to a successful career in musical instrument repair.

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How do you progress from being a complete beginner, to becoming a professional Instrument Repair Technician?

Let's keep it simple:

First of all, attend a **Foundation course** in Brass and/or Woodwind Instrument repair. These courses are designed specifically for complete beginners.

You will learn to use the specialised tools and techniques employed by the trade!

Foundation courses are available in Brass and Woodwind Instrument Repair

On a Foundation course you will learn the fundamental techniques of repair in your chosen specialism, be it Brass or Woodwind.

You will be working alongside committed professional tutors, and enthusiastic students throughout your course.

Our professional workshop facilities are second to none, and as well as being a training workshop since 1985, has been a working repair facility for the same amount of time.

Our foundation courses are still the starting point for those wishing to embark on a new and exciting career or rewarding hobby in Musical instrument Repair.

Following on from your attendance on a Foundation course, practice your repairing skills in your own work space and at your own pace for at least a couple of months, preferably longer!

During this time, you will discover both your strengths and your weaknesses.

Then, to raise your skills and expertise to a higher level, join us for a skills continuation course, which can be repeated as many times as you feel necessary.

Please read on to discover the range and details of courses planned for 2026!

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Woodwind Repair Foundation courses

(Tutor: Lynne Williams)

A Foundation Course is the starting point if you are serious about becoming a Woodwind Instrument Repairer, and no previous repairing experience is required.

The main tutor teaching the Woodwind Foundation Courses this year is Lynne Williams. Lynne has vast repairing and teaching experience, and runs an extremely well-structured course. Lynne is expert in all aspects of woodwind Instrument Repair.

The teaching environment is relaxed, and you will work at a comfortable pace to suit your own abilities and experience. Lynne always goes the extra mile to ensure students achieve their full potential.

During a Foundation Course, general woodwind repair skills will be taught on the clarinet, flute and saxophone. Some flexibility is allowed to individuals wishing to spend more time studying a particular instrument.

These will include dismantling procedures, cleaning techniques, pad replacement, pad seating, spring replacement, regulation and tenon re-corking. Dealing with jammed and/or bent screws. Some soldering and dent removal will also be included. Techniques will be demonstrated, and then practised by the students.

In between formal group teaching sessions you will be able to work on any woodwind instrument(s) of your choice in the above-mentioned group.

You will receive a great deal of one-to-one tuition as each student is visited in turn, being guided and advised on the repairs in progress. The group will be frequently drawn together whenever an interesting repair problem occurs, or when a particular topic is to be demonstrated.

Double reed instruments (Oboe and Bassoon) may also be touched upon, depending on the general interest within the group.

A full itinerary for this course is available on request!

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‘Saxophones Galore’

(Tutor’s Ben Plocki and John Pratt from Headwind Music in Bristol)

This course is devoted entirely to the repair of the Saxophone, and is suitable for students of all skill levels, from complete beginner to those with more advanced repairing skills.

Ben will be teaching the course in May and John, the later course in September.

Working alongside one of the country’s leading saxophone repair specialists, you will develop your knowledge and skills in this area of repair work. Dent removal, soldering, body straightening, tone hole levelling, repadding and much more.

This course can be repeated by students wishing to develop their skills to an even higher level.

Instrumental Music Teachers Repair Workshop

(Lynne Williams)

This two-day course offers an introduction to Woodwind Instrument Repair and Maintenance, aiming to give you the ability to ‘trouble shoot’ during a lesson or a concert, and carry out emergency minor repairs to ‘keep the show on the road’.

We’ll show you the basic tool kit needed for this kind of work.

Pad replacement, regulation, and an introduction to soldering and some dent removal will be included in your course!

You may even find yourself being tempted to join us for a Foundation Course, and develop your skills even further. Do as many others have in the past, and add a string to your bow by venturing into the world of Repairing.

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Brass Instrument Repair Foundation course

(Tutor – Trevor Head)

This is the longest running of our foundation courses; the first course being held here in 1985.

Since 1973 Trevor has been training students, many of whom have subsequently held prominent positions in repair companies or have run their own successful repair and/or instrument making businesses.

Techniques and procedures are taught through demonstration, followed by student practice. Actual repairs will be undertaken throughout the course.

The following are just some of the topics covered on the Course:

Soft and hard soldering, dent removal, trombone slide repair, rotary valve servicing, repair and servicing of valves and slides etc...

Some tool making projects will also be undertaken during the course, and there will be an opportunity to purchase a limited selection of repairer's materials.

The full itinerary for this course is available on request!

Just Trombones!

(Tutor: Ian Moseley – Supported by Trevor Head)

Concentrating on all aspects Trombone repair and re-alignment of trombone slides, eligible students must have first attended a brass instrument foundation course, or gained suitable repairing experience elsewhere!

Dent removal techniques, rotary valve servicing, checking and correcting slide geometry and straightness using digital callipers, and 'back lit' engineers' straight edge.

This course is all about perfection, and attempting to achieve the very best slide action possible.

The course can be repeated by students who wish to develop their skills to an even higher level.

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Skills Continuation Courses

(Trevor Head and Lynne Williams)

Skills Continuation courses are available in Brass and Woodwind Instrument Repair and are suitable for students who have already attended a Foundation Course, and now wish to achieve a higher standard in their repair work.

Our 'Foundation course' tutors have been assigned to a 'Skills Continuation Course' This will allow for teaching continuity, and also the opportunity for group members and their tutor to re-unite, and catch up on personal and professional developments.

The course is also open to those who have gained repairing experience elsewhere!

The course will present you with repair challenges at a much higher level to those encountered on a Foundation course!

The content of the course will be largely 'Student' led, through consultation with your tutor before the course begins. This way you will study the areas of repair work that are of most interest and importance to your own personal development and needs. Content will also contain elements deemed necessary by your tutor.

In other words, you may work on any instruments and repairs of your choosing in your chosen discipline.

Brass Instrument Basic Repair and Maintenance

(Peter Lacey)

This course offers an introduction to Brass Instrument Repair and Maintenance, aiming to give you the ability to 'trouble shoot' during a lesson, a concert or a rehearsal, and carry out emergency minor repairs, to 'keep the show on the road'.

We'll show you the basic tool kit needed for this kind of work.

You will be dealing with jammed slides and sticky valves as well as an introduction to dent removal, fitting replacement water key springs and corks, rotary valve maintenance, trombone slide repair, soldering and basic dent removal.

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Continued!

One very important aspect of this course is that you will develop the knowledge to know when a repair is beyond your current ability and the scope of a 'quick fix', and needs to be taken to an expert repair technician.

You may even find yourself being tempted to join us for a Foundation Course, and develop your skills even further. Do, as many others have in the past, and add a string to your bow by venturing into the world of Repairing.

Lifelong learning and support

Ongoing learning enhances a sense of personal satisfaction and pride in your work and achievements, as well as furthering your career opportunities.

We would hope to develop a professional relationship with you, and to continue to engage with your individual requirements, and help you to develop your sense of personal achievement and increasing expertise to a highly professional level.

National Association of Musical Instrument Repairers - (NAMIR)

Many past students are now professional members of NAMIR and are running their own successful repair businesses.

Certificates of attendance

The school awards its own certificates of attendance, which will be presented on the final day of your course.

Tools and materials

Your tutor may suggest a 'starter' tool kit for those students wishing to own their own tools. This is not compulsory, as all tools needed for your course are provided.

Because of the extremely high cost of repairer's materials, some items used for general practice and repairs to your own instruments will be charged for at cost price.

This will include such items as pads, springs, cork and any spare parts required for a specific repair. These will be provided by your tutor, and you will pay her/him directly for the items used.

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Instruments to work on during the course

Please arrange to bring your own instruments with you to work on during the course. We are sometimes able to provide instruments for those travelling with limited luggage capacity. Please discuss this with your course tutor once you have completed your enrolment.

As a general guide, you will need three or four instruments to work on when attending a course. We strongly advise bringing the very best quality instruments that you can find. Your tutor will advise you once you have enrolled.

Important information on which instruments to bring with you:

Avoid bringing poor quality instruments to work on. A well-engineered instrument, manufactured from good quality materials will assist, not hinder the learning process. Vintage instruments too, should be avoided, if at all possible, as these generally present repair problems which are beyond the scope of trainee instrument repairers.

Accommodation during your course

Please note: Accommodation during the course is not included in the course fee.

Some self-catering and bed and breakfast accommodation is available close to the school. There will be a greater choice available to students who have their own transport.

Further information on local accommodation will be sent to you once you have enrolled on a course, or if requested.

Lunches and refreshments

Tea, coffee, soft drinks and biscuits are provided free of charge, and are available all day long for students to help themselves. At lunch times, a microwave oven, a refrigerator, toaster and all crockery and cutlery are provided for your use!

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Group sizes

The size of each course group is usually between four and seven students, but generally averages at five throughout the year.

What to do next, and how to apply and pay for your course

Please speak to us if you are unsure which course will be most suitable for your needs and interests. Then, check that there is a place available on your preferred course. Do this by contacting Trevor by telephone, text message or email.

Telephone/text: 07971 083089

email: trevorhead@btinternet.com

Bank payment details and an enrolment form will be sent to you once we know that you are going to attend a course. Please send your completed enrolment form and make the payment of the course fee or an agreed deposit.

Payment by instalments

We are happy to spread the cost of your course by allowing monthly payments to be made, after paying an agreed amount as a deposit. Full payment being required no later than four weeks before the course begins.

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Brass and Woodwind Instrument Repair courses – 2026

(Brass Courses are highlighted in blue)

Brass Instrument Repair: Basic Repair and Maintenance. (PL)	April 7 th to 9 th (3 days)	£998.00
Brass Repair: Foundation course (TH)	April 13 th to 17 th (5 days)	£1445.00
Woodwind Repair: Foundation Course (LW)	April 27 th to May 2 nd (6 days)	£1589.00
Saxophones Galore! (BP)	May 11 th to 15 th (5 days)	£1445.00
Woodwind Repair: Skills Continuation Course. (LW)	May 25 th to 29 th (5 days)	£1445.00
Woodwind Repair: Instrumental Music Teachers Repair Workshop (LW)	May 30 th to 31 st (2 days)	£745.00
Just Trombones (IM)	July 27 th to 29 th (3 days)	£998.00
Woodwind Repair: Foundation Course (LW)	August 3 rd to 8 th (6 days)	£1589.00
Brass Repair: Skills Continuation Course (TH)	August 17 th to 20 th (4 days)	£1280.00
Saxophones Galore! (JP)	September 21 st to 25 th (5 days)	£1445.00
Brass Repair: Foundation course (TH)	October 12 th to 16 th (5days)	£1445.00
Woodwind Repair: Foundation Course (LW)	October 26 th to 31 st (6 days)	£1589.00

*Tutors: Lynne Williams (LW) Trevor Head (TH) John Pratt (JP) Ben Plocki (BP)
Peter Lacey (PL) Ian Moseley (IM)*

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Terms and Conditions

Finally, please read the following terms and conditions carefully

- Check with Trevor that a place is available on your preferred course.
- Submit a separate enrolment form for each course being applied for.
- The full course fee or deposit is due at the time of submitting your Enrolment form, unless otherwise agreed in advance.
- Course fees are not normally refundable or transferrable, unless a course is cancelled or re-scheduled by the school, or if students are prevented from attending due to a verifiable illness.
- A refund will not be considered if the withdrawal from the course is less than four weeks before the course start date.

To qualify for a refund, or a transfer to an alternative course due to illness, you must provide medical evidence of the condition preventing you from attending. This should be in the form of a letter from a Medical Professional, such as your GP or Hospital Consultant.

- We reserve the right to cancel or re-schedule a course and strive to give as much notice to students as possible, although last minute cancellations by students or sudden changes to a tutor's personal circumstances, may make this difficult at times.
- Course fees do not include the cost of accommodation.
- You will be charged, (at cost) for certain materials and accessories used on your course, paying your tutor directly for these.
- Smoking, including vaping is not permitted in the school.
- Please make sure you are able to bring instruments with you to work on during the course. Speak to us if this presents a problem for you.
- You will be considered to have secured your place on a course, only when we have received your fully completed enrolment form, together with the course fee payment or agreed deposit.