



AUGUST UPDATE FROM THE TRUSTEES OF THE LEIGH AND BRANSFORD MEMORIAL HALL

“When the bough breaks” – and Summertime at the Hall

Extremes of weather can be a headache for the Hall trustees. For example, in March 2024 England was coming out of the wettest 18-month period since records began. At that time, we faced water problems: a minor flood near the doors, water in the external lighting circuits, and roof leaks caused by storm damage.

But the effects of sustained periods of extreme heat can be just as challenging. The Met Office recently confirmed that not only was spring 2025 the warmest and sunniest on record, but also the hottest June since records began!



The current unseasonably dry and hot conditions prompted Malvern Hills District Council to issue a warning about the potential dangers of the phenomenon known as ‘Sudden Branch Drop’ – where large branches can split away from mature trees without warning. Sure enough, at the beginning of July a large branch on one of the old trees at the far end of the recreational field suddenly cracked and was left hanging precariously. Thankfully we have trustees who regularly check the building and its grounds every week and so the problem was quickly seen and dealt with. But it just goes to show that the power of nature should never be underestimated . . . because keeping our hirers and their guests safe is always our first priority.

June and July were not only very hot months but also extremely busy ones – with a total of over 90 hires

taking place. As well as our usual regular groups and clubs, we hosted more than a dozen family gatherings, reunions, tea and children’s birthday parties; the Amelia K Performing Arts Academy; a number of local NHS training events; a local Karate Club event, a celebration of life and three weddings.



That’s Ruth and Richard pictured above celebrating their wedding in June. As well as creating a fairground experience on the field they also hired a string quartet (as you can see in the banner photograph above) to provide a musical backdrop to the whole joyful event.

Afterwards they contacted us to say: *“All of our guests commented on just how beautiful the drive to the venue was, how spacious the halls were and how the setting was stunning. We were lucky to have a warm and sunny midsummer’s day and being able to use the outside and field meant we could all benefit from being outside while enjoying the food, drinks and music. We have so many pictures of people outside and on the grass relaxing and chatting throughout the evening as well as some families playing football and cricket.”*

“Overall, it was a fantastic experience, and we are so pleased we chose the Leigh and Bransford Memorial Hall for our wedding event. We were really touched and surprised by the wedding card and gift delivered while we were setting up. Thank you so much for these.”

Meanwhile we are working behind the scenes to make further improvements to our heritage building. An anonymous donor has funded the restoration of the 105-year-old porch's hardwood windows and doors. Work begins in late September and will finish before Remembrance Sunday, along with the redesign of the Memorial Planters. More news on progress with these projects next month.

Jon Gamble, Chair of Trustees

