



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

Carols Round the Tree and the Importance of Planning Ahead

It always seems a little strange writing the Christmas and New Year update at the end of October – but as someone once said – “*planning is everything.*” Your trustees will tell you that’s certainly true when it comes to managing our Memorial Hall.

So, let’s start with our plans for December’s **CAROLS ROUND THE TREE**



which takes place outside the Hall on
Saturday 20th December - arrive from 3.45pm
Singing will start at around 4.15pm

Everyone is welcome – so do come along and join in. It’s completely free and you don’t need a ticket – just turn up, there’s plenty of free parking. But please come wrapped up warm with ‘head lights’ or torches as we expect to be singing together outside the Memorial Hall around our tree as darkness falls. Fear not, however – if the weather proves to be too wet, we’ll all gather inside the Hall to sing the roof off! Mulled wine and mince pies are included too!!

POPPY DISPLAY AT THE HALL

Returning to the subject of planning, Rosemary King from our *local branch of the W.I.* contacted us in May to say its members had, for some time, been knitting and crocheting poppies. They were inspired a few months earlier by the news that over the first May bank-holiday weekend this year, various commemorative events were being planned up and down the country to mark the 80th Anniversary of VE Day.

Their *plan* was to assemble the poppies onto a plaque to be displayed outside the Hall over that May weekend. But then, after VE Day, they all agreed to carry on handcrafting even more poppies so *two plaques* could be displayed on the walls adjacent to the Memorial Hall Planters and Stanley, our ‘Standing Soldier’, during the month of November, in time for Remembrance Sunday.

So, just as *planned*, they subsequently created two large, impressive Poppy Plaques that are a fitting reminder of the sacrifices made by all parish residents who served in any conflict since the First World War. WI members also made several *poppy wreaths* that were then hung in the Small Hall. Our grateful thanks are recorded here to every WI member involved in the labour-of-love to create these beautiful plaques and wreaths – now to be hung annually every November.



And finally, I am delighted to report that our *plans* to

REFURBISH THE HALL’S ORIGINAL PORCH

have now been achieved. Thanks to an anonymous and unexpected grant given last April those *plans* were finally put into motion. Master Joiner Mark Davies, the owner of RMD Joinery in Leigh Sinton was commissioned to do the work. He handmade and fitted 8 new, made-to-measure hardwood front and side windows, sills and double doors which he fitted in October, again in time for Remembrance Sunday. On the community’s behalf the trustees express their gratitude to the anonymous donor who has effectively saved this little piece of Parish History for at least the next 100 years! And we have *more plans for 2026!*



But for now, space dictates all that remains, on behalf of your trustees, is to wish each and every one of you a peaceful and happy Christmas and a hopeful New Year. See you in 2026!

Jon Gamble, Chair of Trustees