



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

WELCOME 2023 - A NEW YEAR LOOKING BACK & LOOKING FORWARD

January, the first month of each new year is, we are told, named after the Roman god, Janus. In Roman mythology Janus was the god of doors, gates and transitions. He is depicted as having two faces – one facing the past (or what has been) and the other facing the future (or what is to come). And at the start of each new year many of us take a moment to look back over the previous year and then make resolutions about what we might try to do in the year ahead.

So, continuing this tradition of *'looking back and looking forward'* let me start this first update of 2023 by looking back to the crisp afternoon of Saturday 17 December when many of us met outside the Hall to join in singing a selection of *Carols Round the Tree*. This now annual event continues to be ever-popular, not least perhaps with the children, because Santa makes an appearance when the singing is over and festive refreshments are then served. This year was no exception (as the photo at the top of this column shows) and raised over £100 for charity. Thanks to all those who helped organise the event and for ensuring it was, yet again, a most enjoyable afternoon.

And so to the coming year. It has been brought to my attention that perhaps too many people in our villages may be unclear about what happens at the hall or who indeed may hire it and for what events. Well, the short answer is that any individual, family, group, club or business may hire the hall. It's easy to check availability and current rates by logging on to our website: www.leighandbransfordhall.co.uk There is also a CONTACT US tab which you can use to email any queries you may have.

Most weeks various local clubs and groups meet either during the day or in the evening and all are always ready to welcome new people. So here's a list of the current groups or clubs that meet at the Hall with brief details about how you can get in touch if you'd like to join or simply find out more information.

MONDAY: 7.30 - 9 pm in the LARGE HALL – Weekly
INDOOR BOWLS (September to April)
"Come along and join our friendly group!"
Contact: Stephen Seymour on 01886 832445 or email at scnseymour@gmail.com

TUESDAY: 7.30 – 9.30 pm in the SMALL HALL – Monthly
WOMEN'S INSTITUTE (WI) (First Tuesday of every month, February to December)
"Come along as a guest to find out what's on offer – a very warm welcome awaits you!"
Contact: Elaine (President) on 01886 830275

WEDNESDAY: 9.30 am – 12.30 pm in the SMALL HALL
BRIDGE CLUB (All Year Round)
"We're a friendly group with mixed abilities just come and see!"
Contact: Sue on 01886 833111 or email at suedenn@btinternet.com

WEDNESDAY: 6 – 7.15 pm in the SMALL HALL
BROWNIES (All Year Round except School Holidays)
For girls aged 7-10 years – new members always welcome
Contact: Deb Cook on 07983 733440 or email at leighbrownies1@outlook.com or www.girlguiding.org.uk

THURSDAY: 12 noon – 1 pm in the SMALL HALL
WELL BEING CLASS (All Year Round)
Consists of Tai Chi & Qigong; Zhan Zhuang (standing meditation); seated Meditation; gentle stretching; balance and breathing exercises.
Contact: Kev Price on 07725161178 – No booking required

THURSDAY: 6 – 7 pm in the SMALL HALL
RAINBOWS (All Year Round except School Holidays)
For girls aged 4 to 7 years – our programme of activities are designed to give each girl skills for their future and have fun while taking part.
Contact: Ann Osborne on 01886 833480

However – if nothing in this list catches your eye, why not think about setting up your own group or club at the Hall? We will help by subsidising the first three meetings – which will take some of the financial risk away as you build your group numbers in those early weeks.

Here's how it works in **five easy steps**:

First - talk to like-minded friends, neighbours and others you may know who share similar interests to agree on an idea for a viable group – like a Choir or Drama Group; a Pilates or Art class; perhaps even a Gardening, Book or Cookery Club

Second - think about who will lead the group; does someone you know have the expertise or will you organise yourselves as a self-help club taking it in turns to lead – all we ask is that you don't try and duplicate a club that already meets at the Hall

Third – now's the time to talk to us about finding a regular day and time you might like to meet and for how long. Most groups meet for between 1 and 2 hours, either every week or every month – but that's up to you. So, we'll agree a time with you (and whoever else you wish to bring along) to visit the Hall and see all its facilities. You can then tell us what you'd like to do, and we can discuss the possibilities.

Fourth – if at this point you'd like to go ahead and trial your new group, we'll book the first three meetings for you (subject to availability). Your first session will be free and the next two will be charged at half our standard hourly rates to give you the chance to build your numbers with minimum financial risk

Fifth – if you then decide to continue to meet after week 3 and provided that you book at least 20 more sessions over the next 12 months, we'll discount our hourly rates by 40% for all of those subsequent meetings.

The building itself is a warm and attractive meeting place, with two halls (that can be hired separately or together), with a large kitchen, bar room, stage and two separate toilet suites with baby changing facilities. It's run by the community for the community as a registered charity – which means it's regulated by The Charity Commission and is fully compliant with all the health and safety regulations applying to community buildings.

Why not look forward, like Janus, to some new and interesting possibilities in the coming year? You can call me direct to discuss your ideas or just to find out more information. Oh yes, and belated New Year Greetings to you all.

Jon Gamble, Chair of Trustees