



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

December and Christmas Past at the Hall

By the time you read this, Christmas past will perhaps be just another memory – as our thoughts at this time of the new year inevitably turn to the welcome promise of Spring and ever longer daylight hours.

However, December 2024 was a busy time at the Hall with 27 bookings during the month. Apart from the usual groups who regularly meet at the Hall each month, we also had the pleasure of hosting a *Christmas Wreath Workshop*, a couple of family *Birthday parties*, and a couple of *Christmas parties* – one for our *local Villages Playgroup* children and the other for the students of the Malvern-based *Dance in Motion Academy*. But that was not all – *Tiddler Town* also made a welcome return and, of course, the month ended with our annual *Carols Round the Tree* community event.

Here are some of the highlights . . .



SANTA'S WORKSHOP AT THE NORTH POLE

Over the two days of 16 and 17 December, Nicola, (who runs Tiddler Town) and her helpers, transformed the Small Hall into the *North Pole* for some extra festive play activities for children to explore and enjoy.

At *Santa's Workshop* there were lots of helpful 'elves' busily testing toys to make sure they passed Santa's strict quality control standards and where they could also practice their skills at the wrapping station with lots of sticky tape, bows, tags, and cards to pick from.

A *Christmas 'Bakery'* was there too where children could (pretend!) to bake some cookies and festive

pastries with all the kitchen equipment provided. It was brought to life with some gingerbread scented play dough and cutters, together with a sensory hot chocolate stand, where scooped and poured ingredients made pretend drinks with candy canes and marshmallows included.

Next to that was the '*Reindeer Stable*' with a special reindeer food *pick and mix bench*. Children could take an



SANTA'S BAKERY & SLEIGH

empty packet and mix up their own (bird friendly) *Reindeer Food* to take home, ready to sprinkle outside on Christmas Eve. But perhaps the most popular area had to be *Santa's Sleigh* complete with two sit-on reindeers that made noises when prompted! The children loved playing in the sleigh and pretending to fly around the world with bags of presents.

As you might guess, everyone had a great time with plenty of room for children to play and adults to relax with a drink and a festive cake! We look forward to Tiddler Town returning again in the New Year.

CAROLS ROUND THE TREE

As the sun was going down at the Memorial Hall on Saturday 21st December, people started arriving for our annual carol singing around the tree. However, this year it started to rain so the hall doors were opened to invite our singers in. Many had come on foot and had brought their dogs

along too. With such a glorious inside space the hall provided plenty of room for all. Favourite Carols were sung with a festive interlude from the *Animato Children's Choir*. Afterwards, some well-earned mulled wine and mince pies were offered to the singers and chocolates from the Grotto were given to the children. A collection of £99 on the day was later sent to St Richard's Hospice.

This is now an annual event on the last Saturday before Christmas and we hope to see you all again next year! Special *Thank You's* to *Leigh Sinton Christmas Tree Farm* for donating the tree and *Father Christmas* for nipping in!

On behalf of the Hall Trustees, I wish you all belated New Year Greetings for a safe, happy and hopeful 2025

Jon Gamble, Chair of Trustees