



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

SUMMER IS HERE – WITH MUSIC, MOWING, MONKEYS & MORE

The summer months are a busy time at the Memorial Hall and this summer is no exception.

A few weeks ago, we were privileged to have been chosen by the renowned, Worcester-based, English Symphony Orchestra as one of its rehearsal venues for their upcoming performances at the Elgar Festival on 2 and 3 June. Originally founded in 1978 as the English String Orchestra, you can see the string section of the orchestra in the photo above rehearsing in the Large Hall in late May. Acoustic limitations of the Hall meant that it wasn't possible to safely rehearse the whole orchestra, but just to have had the string section filling the hall with wonderful musical passages written for strings by Sir Edward Elgar, was a memorable landmark in the long history of our community building. Those of you who were indeed fortunate enough to have tickets for the Gala Concert itself on the evening of Saturday, 3 June at Worcester Cathedral would have experienced a rare musical treat. We're delighted our community building made a small, but nevertheless important contribution to the continuing success of the annual Elgar Festival.



The onset of summer also means a busy time keeping the acre or so of grass on our recreational field in good trim. For the last few years, Alan Lewis, (one of our trustees) has been regularly mowing the grass and keeping the hedges neat and tidy. Recently, however, Alan has been incapacitated which has taken him 'out of action' for at least the rest of the year. But I'd like to take a moment here to thank Alan for all the unpaid time and hard work he's put in over the years to ensure that the Memorial Hall's field is always in good order for everyone to enjoy. He has refused to take even a single penny towards the cost of fuel for the tractor or for maintaining his equipment which, over the course of the last

few years saved the Hall a considerable sum in mowing costs. He truly is, and continues to be, one of our Hall Heroes.

There are many ways in which you can measure the 'health' of a community, but in my experience one of the most meaningful is how local people rally round to help out in times of sudden change or need. And here was a case in point. Pauline Harcombe (from the local farming family and another of our trustees) mentioned the situation about Alan to her husband, John, who quickly stepped in and gave the field a much-needed cut. That's him on his tractor in the photo, just cutting the last couple of lengths of long grass.

It was just in time too, as a few days later the Hall had been booked for an annual local Group Weekend – and the field was an essential part for some of their planned programme of activities. So, our grateful thanks also go to the Harcombe family for selflessly stepping up at a critical moment, even though it's such a busy time of year for them, as indeed it is for all our farmers. We are indeed so very fortunate to live in a parish community where people freely and generously give their precious time and expertise for the benefit of us all.



And so, finally, to the 'Little Monkeys'. Next month the Hall welcomes the return of two fantastic **Holiday Clubs** for young children run by **Monkeys in Motion**. They're aimed at children aged 3-11 years and every day is filled with fun, games, dancing, crafts, outdoor activities and *goodie bags*!!

- **Rumble in the Jungle** takes place on Tuesday 15th & Wednesday 16th August and
- **Movie Star Magic** takes place on Thursday 24th & Friday 25th August.

Both Holiday Clubs are at the Memorial Hall and run from

- 9.00am - 1.00pm for ages 3 - 4 years and
- 9.00am - 3.30pm for ages 5 - 11 years

Places get booked up quickly, so be sure to book your child's place early on their website: www.monkeysinmotion.co.uk
Your children will thank you for it!

Jon Gamble, Chair of Trustees