



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

Spring is Here and it's Busy Times Ahead

April was a record-breaking month for events taking place at the Hall. In all we hosted 47 events, almost twice the monthly average for April. In the coming month, we have already taken 36 bookings - 2 more than the monthly average for May, and which includes 2 weddings.

As well as our usual clubs, which continue to flourish, we now have three new weekly classes meeting at the Hall, designed for anyone interested in Yoga and Pilates. These classes run most Monday afternoons and evenings and also on Thursday evenings. If you're interested in finding out more, contact our booking assistant Emma (on 07792 867148) and she'll put you in touch with the leaders of each group.

In April we also welcomed back Nicola who runs *Tiddler Town* - she has now booked play sessions on most Fridays (and on some Mondays and Saturdays) throughout the year specifically for toddlers and preschoolers together with their parents or carers. These engaging sessions provide a perfect blend of education and play across both of our adjoining halls. Nicola tells us she has been busy thinking of new ways to use our light and airy space over the coming months. The first of these ideas is to create a so-called 'gross motor play area' comprising lots of new, high quality wooden play equipment. As Nicola says in her marketing material "*think Pikler Triangles, Balance Boards, Slides and Bouncers etc.*"



And for those of you, like me, who had no idea what *Pikler Triangles* might be, that's one in the photo above. It was originally designed by Hungarian paediatrician Emmi Pikler - as a safe, stable wooden climbing structure to encourage gross motor skill development and free movement in children, allowing

them to explore and climb at their own pace. So now you (and I) know!! Again, if you want to find out more, just contact Emma.

In fact, family parties and children's birthday parties continued to feature heavily across all the hires taking place over the last couple of months and in the coming month of May.

That's Karolina, her daughter, Olivia, and Olivia's birthday cake in the photo below, taken recently at the Hall. Karolina wrote in to say:

"Olivia celebrated her 5th birthday at the Leigh & Bransford Memorial Hall. It was a day to remember! The hall was the perfect venue as we had so many children from school and family friends coming. We were able to accommodate a bouncy castle alongside a ball pit in the Small Hall and there was still space for a long table for all the children to sit down for a meal. Olivia had the best party, and we all created lovely memories to cherish. We had a lovely experience booking the hall and will be using it again for future family celebrations".



We were also delighted to welcome back the NHS Stroke Rehab Team and some of the local Priory Adult Care Team last month as they continued their staff training programmes. Both organisations provide valuable support for individuals and their families at critical times in their lives' journeys.

The additional revenue generated by this latest upturn in hires means that we've also been able to replace our ageing and inefficient 'catering' oven and microwave in the kitchen. As a point of principal, and after allowing for annual planned and

contingency running costs (overheads), we will always invest any surplus income, however modest, in upgrading equipment and amenities – keeping your Memorial Hall, set in its own restful setting looking across to the Malvern Hills a safe and welcoming place for everyone in our wider community, young and old, to enjoy.

Jon Gamble, Chair of Trustees