



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

ACCESS ALL AREAS

The eagle-eyed among you will have noticed something rather odd about this month's banner photograph of the Hall. It's as though the photograph depicting the south elevation of the building, seen from the two shady benches in front, has been stretched like a piece of elastic. Well, in a sense that's exactly what has been done and it's all to do with compiling the sort of digital images we need to create a 3D virtual tour of the Hall.

So, a few weeks ago, James, our web-site manager, spent the best part of a sunny September day taking dozens of new internal and external digital photographs of our heritage building, its grounds and surrounding views – in preparation for creating the comprehensive virtual tour of the Hall that he will then incorporate into our new website, due to be launched early in 2024.

The 'stretched' 2D digital photos, like the one above, are actually 4 merged photographs of the same view taken from 4 different angles. To create these images James mounted his camera onto a tripod with an automatic turntable. After setting up the shot the camera would take 4 timed photographs from the same spot but at 90-degree intervals. So, imagine you're the camera looking straight ahead at the south elevation of the building. Then, after a few seconds you turn right *on the spot* to face directly west, then a few seconds later do the same again to face north and then turn one final time to look at the view facing east. You've effectively now seen the whole panoramic, 360-degree view. Back at his studio, using some clever software combined with a bit of James' digital 'magic', he then turns each of these 4 separate but merged 2-D images into a 3-D view, just like the ones you can see on Google Maps.

But why, you might ask, do we think it's important to include this facility on our new website? Well, we get lots of requests from people who are thinking about hiring the Hall, but first, quite understandably, want to look around because they've never actually been inside. While we will continue to make arrangements with potential hirers to have in-person visits, this new virtual tour facility on our website will soon give them an initial comprehensive 'look around' all of the rooms and the grounds where they can 'see' and 'walk through' the facilities and spaces. In short, they will be able to **'Access All Areas'** 24 hours a day.

Continuing with this month's theme, I can also report that our trustee and Hall Hero, George Thomas, (with advice from Garth Lowe) has now put up most of the bird boxes we took delivery of a few weeks ago. In all there will be a dozen boxes of various shapes and sizes strategically

located around the grounds, attached either high up on trees or on our buildings. Dale Humphries, another of our trustees (who is also a leader of 1st Leigh Scouts) will be putting up the remaining few boxes around the Scouts' building and their surrounding grounds. It will not only encourage **access** to new nesting sites for our local wild birds, but also make an interesting 'I Spy' opportunity for both young and old alike who visit the Hall.



So, this is a good point to introduce you to Dale Humphries, another of our trustees and Hall Heroes. Dale not only takes care of our Facebook Page (find us by searching for *Leigh and Bransford Memorial Hall*) but also more recently has been instrumental in designing, ordering and arranging the installation of acoustic wall and ceiling panels in the Small Hall. We have long been aware that the acoustics in the small hall are not great because of the high ceiling and hard surfaces. Dale has significant expertise in this area and, like all our trustees, has selflessly given both his time and his skills for the benefit of all who use and **access** the Hall. Fitting these panels will improve the acoustics especially for people who have difficulty in hearing. They will also enhance the appearance of the Small Hall and provide some welcome additional insulation. Yet another example of how all our Hall Heroes, like Dale, help us to widen **access** by improving the Hall's facilities.

Finally a date for your diary: The Friends of Leigh & Bransford School Christmas Fayre will take place at the Hall on Friday 8 December between 3.30 and 6.30pm!

Jon Gamble, Chair of Trustees