



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

Figures, Fields, Fayres, and a Family Festival

Autumn is a busy time of year for the Hall trustees. It may surprise you to know that since the beginning of the year the Memorial Hall has been the chosen venue for almost 300 events and we confidently expect that **figure** grow to at least 340 – or almost one a day – by the end of the year. So, keeping your well-used hundred-year-old heritage building properly maintained, safe, warm and inviting as Autumn turns to Winter keeps us very busy. Since the end of summer we have had our statutory annual fire safety inspection, dealt with a wasps' nest just outside the kitchen window, fixed loose and dripping taps, cleared drains, booked the air-source heating service and fixed a leak in the Large Hall roof.

But here's another interesting set of **figures** – according to one reliable set of statistics, in 1920 when the Hall first opened, the population of Worcestershire (just after the Great War) was about 255,000. Over the following 100 years or so the county's population is now estimated to be almost 604,000 – more than a two-fold increase. At least one consequence of our ever-expanding population is the impact it has on our natural environment. Building tens of thousands of new homes over the past century required planners to designate more and more acres of green space as building land – and that meant what were once **fields** gradually became housing estates. And yes, we all need places to live, but we also all need to be mindful about making the most of the remaining natural green spaces we have in our beautiful county and community.

Partly with this in mind, on **Thursday November 28**, Worcestershire County Council are sponsoring a **free** discussion event at the Memorial Hall entitled:

Nature-based Farming in Worcestershire

The event runs from 9.30am to 4pm and is aimed at county landowners and farmers – however anyone in a conservation-based field or farming advisory role is also welcome to attend. Refreshments and lunch are provided. Guest speakers will introduce the Key Topics of the Day which include: *Worcestershire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy; Nature-based Farming Opportunities; Latest Updates on the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) from the NFU and RPA; Funding opportunities (including Biodiversity Net Gain) and Mental Health and Well-Being Support.*

We are privileged to have been chosen as the venue for this important event and for those of you in the target

audience who would like to find out more and reserve your place, (entry is by free ticket) simply go to the following link:

[Nature-based Farming in Worcestershire Tickets, Thu, Nov 28, 2024 at 9:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Continuing with the theme of forthcoming events, we are also delighted to welcome back the Friends of Leigh and Bransford Primary School who, once again, are holding their annual fund-raiser Christmas **Fayre** at the Hall. Last year's **Fayre** was a huge success, so please come along on the 29 November to help your local school raise much-needed funds!



And finally, it's a pleasure to tell you about a joint 40th birthday **'Family** fun day' held recently at the Hall. Katie, one of the organisers, told us that they *"transformed the field into a **Festival** park, with a live singer, face paint tent, garden games stations and a range of inflatables, including bungee runs and gladiator duels. Great for the children and the adults!!! But the main attraction was the silent disco tent, which proved to be an excellent addition. And the hall itself was turned into a tea, coffee and cake station, with invited guests bringing a cake to share."*

"We had such a brilliant day – it was wonderful to hire a venue that allowed us to bring our vision to life. All the guests commented on what an amazing venue it is and how they'd like to do it again every year!"

Whatever your event, the Hall has so much to offer.

Jon Gamble, Chair of Trustees