



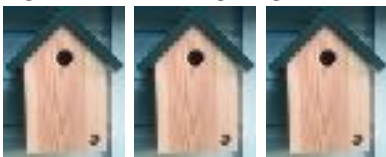
OCTOBER UPDATE FROM THE TRUSTEES OF THE LEIGH AND BRANSFORD MEMORIAL HALL “WHAT’S IN A NAME?” – ‘ERIS’, ‘BIRD FLU’, ‘LITTLE MONKEYS’ & ANOTHER ‘HALL HERO’

When Shakespeare’s character, Juliet, asked “*What’s in a name? That which we call a rose, by **any other name** would smell as sweet*”, she was lamenting the fact that Romeo’s family name was *Montague* and her’s was *Capulet*. The two families had been feuding for years so their love for each other was automatically doomed, just because of his name. What mattered to Juliet was Romeo’s character and his love for her. His name alone didn’t mean that he was a bad person – had he have had a different name, she mused, all would have been well.

While it is certainly true that **names alone** can never be a reliable measure of anything, it is important to give names to things – not just to identify and distinguish between new ideas, products and things but also to raise awareness about some that could be potentially dangerous. For example, as I write this month’s update there is much talk about a new strain of covid that is taking up residence on our shores. Officially identified as EG.5.1, it has been given the charming, **common name** of *Eris*, to raise our awareness about it. Charming, that is, until you realise that *Eris* is also the name of the Greek goddess known as the ‘infernal monster’ of strife, discord, contention and rivalry. More worryingly, she is also portrayed as “the *spirit* of the strife of war, haunting the battlefield and delighting in human bloodshed”. An interesting choice of name, don’t you think? Not scary at all! Sometimes we would, perhaps, do well to think more carefully about the **names** we give new things.

But us humans are not the only species in our parish community that have been severely impacted by new strains of viruses in recent years. If I said that an equally virulent virus called HPIA H5N1 has been active here, would you know what that was? Probably not unless you’re a keen ornithologist. But if I say, ‘*Bird flu*’, then that’s a **name** all of us would understand.

A few months ago, we were contacted by a small Pershore-based charity, telling us that as bird numbers had declined dramatically over recent years, they were running a project supplying free RSPB bird nesting boxes to various organisations including village halls.



They asked if we would consider installing a dozen or so of these nesting boxes around our site to help rebuild the wild bird population in our locality. We readily agreed having already planted several *malus* trees, because we knew they would attract wild birds. We are now busy finding suitable places to install the boxes and have included both the Villages

Playgroup and 1st Leigh Scouts (as they both share our site) in the enterprise. Together we are hoping to encourage our smaller wild-bird population to grow and thrive once again in our beautiful rural setting.



Next, there’s a local organisation endearingly **named** ‘*Monkeys in Motion*’ – which, among other year-round activities, specialises in running Holiday Clubs for young children – their so-called ‘*Little Monkeys*’. They booked the Hall in late summer again this year to hold a couple of their two-day Workshops, **named** *Jungle* and *Movie Magic*. As you can see from the photos below, the children danced, sang, played games, crafted, role played and made friendships for life over the two days of each workshop, always leaving with beaming smiles.

And, finally, it’s time to introduce you to the next of our ‘*Hall Heroes*’ – so **named** because without them we would have no Memorial Hall in our parish. This month it’s the turn of **Sue Benjamin**, who has performed the pivotal trustee role of **Hall Secretary** for several years now. Sue became a trustee after being nominated by our local W.I. group, who meet at the Hall once a month. Sue’s role is not only to send out agendas, papers and take accurate minutes at each of our meetings, but also to keep proper records, ensuring we comply with all current legislation regarding public buildings; have reliable inventories of stock and purchase replacement kitchen items as necessary; file and display relevant certification, to include uploading our annual reports to the Charity Commission. And, as if that weren’t enough, she also helps with maintenance of the small garden areas and has been known to plant trees and generally spruce things up all round. Always working hard behind the scenes, Sue is another of our brilliant Hall Heroes.

So, “*what’s in a name?*” Well, the answer is probably more than you might think but just be careful choosing!!

Jon Gamble, Chair of Trustees