



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

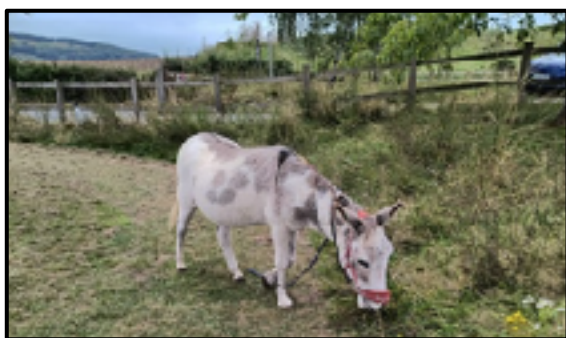
Acting Up, some Animal Magic and the return of Weddings

Although most of our regular groups don't meet over the summer weeks of the school holidays, the Hall was no less busy during that time as many of our summer hires and events get planned well in advance.

For example, back in February, we had an email from Alison who was looking for a venue in August to celebrate her 'significant birthday' with friends and family. Far from dreading the onset of the septuagenarian age, she was actively embracing and planning for its impending arrival! That day came in August and what follows is her review of what was a memorable, and largely sunny day. She writes:

"We were looking for a venue for a big birthday party and were so lucky to have found the Memorial Hall.

"We used one of the rooms for children's entertainment from the Cotswold Children's Entertainer and the larger Hall for our 100 plus adult guests to sit down and have a meal. The large kitchen with the 3 fridges was very useful and with the help of Legges' Delicatessen we produced lunch for everybody with a local theme.



"The field was very safe and popular with the children. We were able to invite the donkeys and the petting zoo from Little Party Heaven and they were a great attraction. Inside, a table magician and a jazz duo entertained us all.

"There was lovely weather, plenty of parking and the whole day could not have gone any better".

While we can't guarantee the weather, we love the fact that the Hall is being used more and more these days for family celebrations – and the photo above shows the lunch tables set for Alison's guests, complete with overhead bunting and lanterns.

Back in May, *Stagecoach Malvern* contacted us in the hope of hiring the whole building and field for a young persons' summer workshop week in early August. As this was to be their first at the Hall, we were so happy to help Hannah, the Principal of Stagecoach Malvern make it happen.

The week was a great success and saw students attend daily classes of singing, dance and drama culminating in a show on the Friday. They called the show itself **Stagecamp** and it featured hits from *Grease*, *Matilda* and *High School Musical*. Hannah tells us she was thrilled with the talent, energy and enthusiasm of the young performers and hopes to run the summer school again at the Hall next year.



This is Hannah's first year as principal of Stagecoach Malvern; she trained at Stella Mann and has worked on various dance contracts abroad and as an illusionist in the circus. She has been with Stagecoach for 20 years and most recently performed in the commonwealth games. If you would like more information go to:

www.stagecoach.co.uk/malvern

And finally, I recently came across a chart showing the number of marriages taking place in England and Wales since 2017. In the three years to 2019 the annual number had fallen from 243,00 to 220,000 (or by almost 10%). Of course, during the pandemic, they fell to an all-time low of just 86,000 – but since then they have been gradually rising again, with the latest figures for 2022 exceeding the 2017 figure by 3,000 to 247,000. Our own advance bookings show that we already have 7 weddings planned for next year. Good to know that in our own little corner of the world we are part of that upward trend as more and more local couples decide to 'tie the knot' and celebrate their wedding at the Hall.

Jon Gamble, Chair of Trustees