

# MALVERN TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

## WINTER 2020



### MAYOR'S MESSAGE



2020 has been a strange year! As Mayor, I have been missing the activities and events which usually allow me to meet people and help raise funds for my Mayoral charities. With the cancellation of our usual events programme, Priory Park, without its concerts and The Mayor's Gala, has been quiet. However, it has been good to see families enjoying the Town Council's Rosebank Gardens, which has been popular for picnics during the summer with no distancing worries.

Our grounds maintenance operatives and office staff have continued to work during the lockdowns, keeping the Town along with its parks and play areas tidy and safe and I thank them for this. I look forward to the last task this year.... erecting the Christmas Tree and Christmas lights in the Town! I am also pleased to report that we will now, for the first time in many years, be able to erect a Christmas tree and lights in Malvern Link, having removed the fountain.

As we enter the festive season, the next few weeks and months are going to be difficult for many of us, especially with this second lockdown. Walking around Malvern, I often chat with people in their gardens or in the street and I am heartened and impressed by the stories I hear of the many individuals and groups who continue to care for their neighbours.

I ask that we all continue to look out for each other as together, we will get through this and enjoy better times. Thank you for your continued support and I wish you a healthy and Happy Christmas and New Year.

**Cllr Neil Morton (Mayor of Malvern)**

### CHRISTMAS WINDOW TRAIL

This year we have an exciting Christmas window trail for all the family to take part in. Fifty local traders will be dressing their windows from 5 December, as part of a Town trail to encourage people to shop locally. Hidden in each of the participating windows will be a letter for you to find which will spell out a well known Christmas word or phrase. There are four trails for you to complete in Great Malvern, Barnards Green, Malvern Link and Link Top. For more information and trail packs please visit our facebook pages and website, [malverntowncouncil.org.uk](http://malverntowncouncil.org.uk) or Malvern Town, [facebook.com/profile.php?id=100014419998011](https://facebook.com/profile.php?id=100014419998011)

You are invited to take part in this year's festive shop window dressing competition with a *twist*

New for this year we are creating a children's trail using participating shop windows to encourage local shoppers onto the high streets.

## COUNCIL UPDATE

### Refurbishment/Removal of Fountain Area in Malvern Link

After a number of years of discussions regarding the future of the fountain in Malvern Link, a decision was made to remove the fountain and refurbish this area for use as a public space in Malvern Link. Works commissioned by Malvern Hills District Council have removed the fountain and levelled the area and installed a new tarmac surface in keeping with the area. At the same time the Town Council has ensured that there are electrical connections on the site.

**Mayor Cllr Neil Morton  
& Cllr Paul Tuthill**



Town Councillors have agreed funding for a Christmas tree to be erected in this area and new Christmas lights have been purchased to decorate the tree. Thanks must be given to Councillor Sarah Rouse, Leader of Malvern Hills District Council for her help in finally getting this project off the ground, as well as to County Councillor Paul Tuthill (Malvern Link Ward) for a contribution of funds towards this project.

Malvern Town Council will be taking ownership and responsibility for the redeveloped area and hope that it can now be used not just at Christmas, but as a useable space for the local community all year round. The blocks that provided the base for the old fountain are going to be re-used and will be part of a new fountain project in Rose Bank Gardens in 2021.

### Refurbishment of Malvern Town Council Play Areas

Despite difficulties caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Town Council has continued to keep the eleven play areas under its ownership open in line with Government guidelines. Town Council staff are on site daily to ensure that they are safe and clear of litter.

In addition £32,000 has been spent on refurbishment projects at play areas. This includes a new rope climbing frame and set of swings at Victoria Park, a new climbing frame with new slide at Townsend Way play area and a new swing set at Dukes Meadow.



#### Victoria Park

Works to install the two new basketball courts started at Victoria Park in July 2020 and the groundworks for the courts along with the new fencing has now been completed. Due to the fact that the world class flex court surfacing has been sourced through a company based in Belgium and with the restrictions imposed on travel, it has not been possible to get this installed this year. The Town Council will continue to work to get this project completed as soon as is feasibly possible and is hopeful that the courts will be officially opened in Spring 2021. Plans are also in place to redevelop the pavilion to provide improved facilities for the community.



### Roundabout Maintenance

The Town Council maintains a number of roundabouts in Malvern. Recently the Town Council took over the licence for the roundabout by Malvern Spa and has carried out works to remove the overgrown vegetation and improve the appearance of this area.

## COUNCIL UPDATE CONT.....

### **“Raise some Christmas Cheer at the end of a difficult year”**

This Christmas will be more difficult for many families in Malvern with the Covid-19 Pandemic affecting many people in different ways. Malvern Town Council is launching the Mayor of Malvern's Christmas Cheer fundraising campaign to spread a little Christmas Cheer to those families who may otherwise go without some of the festive treats that many of us take for granted.



The Town Council is asking local residents and local businesses to give a little extra this Christmas to help provide Christmas Cheer boxes which will be distributed to where they are most needed through local organisations and charities in Malvern. Please visit the Town Council website [malverntowncouncil.org/home/](http://malverntowncouncil.org/home/) for more details or to get more involved please email Clare Lawrence [clawrence@malvern-tc.org.uk](mailto:clawrence@malvern-tc.org.uk)



### **Remembrance Commemorations**

A Field of Remembrance at Great Malvern Library was open to the general public from 5—12 November. Numerous crosses were planted in memory of those who have served in the Armed Forces from World War 2 and other various conflicts.

This year Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day looked very different to previous years. A small wreath laying ceremony took place at Great Malvern Library with the Mayor Neil Morton and the Chairman of the

Remembrance Committee Anthony Hartley-Woolley. It was lovely to see a small gathering of spectators all of whom were socially distanced and paid their respects to the fallen. On Armistice Day a live streamed service was held in Great Malvern Priory conducted by Reverend Rod Corke. Both the Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day services can be viewed on Malvern Town Council's website: [malverntowncouncil.org/news/remembrance-2020/](http://malverntowncouncil.org/news/remembrance-2020/) For further information on 'The Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal' Please visit [britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/poppy-appeal](http://britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/poppy-appeal)

### **Town Council Support during Coronavirus Pandemic**

During the first lockdown period earlier in the year, Malvern Town Council was pleased to be able to grant special funding to a number of local organisations who were helping those in the community directly affected by the impacts of the Pandemic. Many local charities lost much of their normal income during this time and this financial assistance enabled them to continue with their support services.

A grant of £10,000 was given to Community Action Malvern and District. The Town Council regularly supports this local charity, but extra help was required as Community Action played a crucial part in the Here 2 Help Scheme set up by Worcestershire County Council, supporting vulnerable and isolated members of the community during the lockdown period.

£10,000 was also given to Age UK Malvern and District, another local charity heavily called upon during the lockdown period. This grant facilitated the recruitment of additional befriending staff and volunteers who were then able to support isolated older people in a variety of ways.

Special grants were also given to Brook Farm Community Association and Malvern Link and Cowleigh PCC. £2,000 towards the Octagon Food Parcel project run by Brook Farm Community Association and £2,500 to the PCC helped ensure that isolated people remained connected with local events.

The Town Council would like to thank all local groups who have provided and continue to provide vital support to the local community in Malvern throughout these challenging times. It has been wonderful to see how the local community has pulled together in the face of such difficult circumstances.



## HELP AND SUPPORT DURING COVID-19

**HERE 2 HELP  
WORCESTERSHIRE**



A reminder that the Here 2 Help Community Action Response to Coronavirus (Covid-19) is still available if you require help or support. You can contact them either via the website or by phone. Details and opening hours below: [worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help](http://worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help) or 01905 768053.

Opening hours are Monday to Thursday 9.00am to 5.00pm and Friday 9.00am to 4.30pm.

## COUNCIL INFORMATION

All Council meetings are currently being held via zoom and you are welcome to attend. Please check our website for details including how to join.

Council meetings start at 6pm. The next Full Council meetings are:  
16 December 2020 and 3 February 2021.

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