

## **OCTOBER 2022**

Seasons are changing and the parks and grounds are slowly turning autumnal in colour.

It may be a little early to start thinking about Christmas but if you are looking for a great Christmas gift for under £10 maybe think about buying the Malvern Town Council Charity Calendar for 2022.

I teamed up with the Beacon Camera Club and organised a competition to take photographs of places owned and/or maintained by the Council. The Beacon Camera club did not disappoint and we have a fantastic calendar. I was able to get sponsorship for 125 calendars so the purchase price will be donated into the Mayor's charity fund, which this year is supporting two great local charities.

You can buy your charity calendar and charity Christmas cards on this website.

On the 18th September I had the great pleasure of handing out medals to the humans and the dogs that completed the Help for Heroes Malvern Hills challenge and was joined by Harriett Baldwin, our local MP. It was a great afternoon and excellent to see how much money was raised for Help for Heroes.

I also had the privilege to attend the Bridge at Hanley Swan school to talk about what it is like to be the Mayor of Malvern. I was asked some great questions and I hope to visit the school in person soon to see first hand the great work the school does for its students.

This year we were once again awarded 'GOLD' status by the Heart of England in Bloom campaign for our parks, gardens and floral displays. This is an excellent achievement for Malvern; thanks to the hard work of all those involved, Malvern in Bloom really is a team effort and the floral displays within the town looked fantastic this summer.

COP26 international climate talks begin on 31 October so it seems the right time for the Town Council to announce changes to their current planting policy. The Operations Team use 15,000 plants in beds at Victoria Park, the cemetery, and Rosebank Gardens. Plants have always been changed twice a year with bedding displays made up of approximately 80% annual plants which then have to be disposed of each year. The newly agreed planting scheme will consist of 80% perennials and 20% annuals, which will be composted at the end of their life. The Town Council's Environmental Panel has agreed that we will be a peat-free council from 2022. At the Town Council's Environmental Panel it has now been agreed that we are now a peat-free council as from 2022.

As we are approaching Remembrance Sunday I had a meeting to discuss this year's arrangements and I am glad to say that the situation this year will return almost to normal. The parade will be slightly smaller, but people are encouraged to join us at this special time to remember the fallen.

I am busy planning fundraising events, so please watch this space as I hope you will be interested in attending some or all of them and helping to raise valuable funds for my two chosen charities which do fantastic work in the local community.

I cannot solve every problem in Malvern, but I will listen and do what I can. We are a council of 20 councillors and all are working hard to support our community.

**Cllr Nick Houghton, Mayor of Malvern**

