

Newsletter

 **Malvern Town Council**

New Year 2023

Welcome to the New Year edition of our newsletter, where we will share with you what YOUR Town Council is doing.

It was a great summer and autumn as we saw the return of our community events, such as the Mayor's Bonanza, Bands in the Park, and Christmas Light Switch-On, all of which were very well supported by the public.

As Mayor, I have had the privilege of working with fellow councillors, continuing to make Malvern a great place to live, work and play, by developing strategies and policies, working with community groups, as well as fundraising for my mayoral charity, 'Guide Dogs, Ledbury and Malvern'. Thursday 4 May 2023 is the date of the next scheduled elections for the Town Council and I would encourage local people to consider putting their names forward for this challenging but rewarding role. We will be issuing more information about the elections and what it means to be a Councillor over the coming months.

As a Town Council we take great pride in how Malvern looks and you will often see our Operations Team planting up flower beds, watering hanging baskets or picking up litter. Their hard work, along with help from local community groups ensured another successful year in the Heart of England in Bloom awards when we were delighted once again to be awarded a 'Gold' award. Malvern in Bloom really is a team effort, as the Town is judged not just on its horticultural achievements but also in relation to the level of community working and how the natural environment is managed.



Malvern in Bloom

Baton Relay



The Royal Family was at the forefront of events this year, starting with the Platinum Jubilee in June. We held a special Bands in the Park afternoon, with vintage sounds, workshops, tea and cupcakes, and a jubilee obelisk was erected in the entrance to Rose Bank Gardens to celebrate the long reign of Queen Elizabeth II. Malvern then welcomed the Commonwealth Games Baton relay to Malvern on 22 July and as Mayor, I was honoured to be part of the welcoming ceremony. The baton travelled up Church Street to music and entertainment before continuing its journey to Worcester.

We were all, of course, saddened to hear of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 8 September. We formally recognised the mourning period for Her Majesty and took time to reflect on and give thanks for her long service but we also welcomed His Majesty King Charles III to the throne and held a Proclamation in Rosebank Gardens. A competition was held for local people to design fitting tributes to her Majesty which will be incorporated into the current refurbishment of the bus shelter at Rosebank Gardens.

In December, we saw a huge crowd coming out to see the Christmas lights switched on. The day also saw lots going on in the town, including a very popular Father Christmas who was busier than ever, entertainment and music throughout the town. The following week I delivered 100 "festive cheer bags" to the Salvation Army for distribution to local families who perhaps need a little extra help, especially at Christmas and I would like to thank all the businesses and individuals who contributed towards this.

It is a huge privilege to be the Mayor of Malvern and although at times it can be frustrating, it is also, more importantly, very rewarding. We are a council of twenty councillors and whilst we do not always agree we do have healthy debates and implement what the majority of the councillors want to deliver. This is local democracy at work.

Finally, I would like to thank Guide Dogs Malvern and Ledbury, my mayoral charity for this year. They have supported all the Malvern Town Council fundraising events and activities and we are well on our way to reaching our fundraising target of £10,000 which will allow us to name a puppy, and we will be holding a competition to do this.

As the Mayor and indeed a Town Council, we cannot solve every problem, but we will listen and do what we can.

News from the Ground

Michael Crescent Play Area Refurbishment - in October 2022, Michael Crescent play area underwent a refurbishment; new equipment was installed and the wet pour surface replaced. All our play areas are well used by families, and undergo refurbishments on a regular basis to keep them in good order.



Michael Crescent

Rosebank Gardens Refurbishments - over the past 12 months Rosebank Gardens have seen some changes; to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee an obelisk was installed in the entranceway bed adorned with Queen Elizabeth II roses. Throughout the summer/autumn months a statue was erected by the 99 steps in memory of Jenny Lind, the Swedish Nightingale. The historic bus shelter outside the gardens is currently undergoing refurbishment and, as a way of commemorating the 70-year reign of our late Queen, and works will soon commence to level the entranceway bed and plant with more rose bushes.

Tarmacking of MTC asset sites - during the spring/summer months, Great Malvern Cemetery and Dukes Meadow underwent tarmacking refurbishment of the access roadways, making it easier for the staff and public to access.



Tarmacking

Tree Planting- An orchard has recently been planted at Greenfield Road with a mixture of plum, apple and pear trees. It is hoped that the fruit produced will be used by the local community.

Town Council Events

A busy schedule of events is being planned for 2023 with an 18-week Bands in the Park programme and the Mayor's Bonanza in Victoria Park on 27 August.

Two events planned for earlier in the year are the Health & Wellbeing Fair and The Mayor's Peaks Challenge both on Saturday 29 April.

The Health and Wellbeing Fair will be held this year in Priory Park providing space for more exhibitors and a bigger programme of demonstrations. If you are a health and well-being professional, we are currently looking for stall holders to participate in this event. Please contact Clare Lawrence clawrence@malvern-tc.org.uk

A promotional graphic for upcoming events. The top banner reads 'Upcoming Malvern Town Council Events 2023!'. Below it, the date 'Saturday 29th April' is shown. The graphic is split into two main sections. The left section, titled 'Early Bird Offer' and 'The Mayor's Peaks Challenge', features a scenic view of a path through a green landscape. Text in this section includes 'Walk 15km end to end over 17 legendary peaks or do half the route 7km and 7 peaks', 'Raising money for Guide Dogs', and 'for more information visit our website malverntowncouncil.org'. The right section, titled 'Health & Wellbeing Fair', features a woman sitting in a meditative pose on a wooden deck overlooking a lake. Text in this section includes 'Exciting new location in Priory Park', '11am-5pm', and 'Join us for a day of positivity'.

Malvern Town Council Elections

The next scheduled elections in Malvern Hills District are District and Parish Council elections on Thursday 4 May 2023. Malvern Town Council will have vacancies for 20 Councillors over nine wards. Are you passionate about your community? Do you want to help make a long-lasting change? Do you have innovative ideas for the Council? Do you have concerns about a specific issue and want to do something about it? If this is you, then we need you! We need people from all backgrounds and experiences to put themselves forward for election. You do not need any specific experience or qualifications, just enthusiasm and to be able to attend 1-2 evening meetings each month.

To be a councillor you need to be:

- A British or Commonwealth citizen. You may also be eligible as a citizen of the European Union, however the criteria has changed now that the UK has left the European Union.
- At least 18 years old.
- Registered to vote in the area or have lived, worked, or owned property there for at least 12 months before an election.

If you are in any doubt about whether you are eligible to stand as a councillor, you should contact the Electoral Services or Democratic Services team at Malvern Hills District Council (www.malvernhillsgov.uk) or the Electoral Commission for advice and the full eligibility criteria (www.electoralcommission.org.uk) **Councillors lead the local conversation - it's a varied and highly fulfilling role, and no two days are the same. YOU can be part of that conversation and help to make your area the best place it can be.**

Public Consultation on Mill Lane

In September 2018, Countryside Properties submitted a planning application to Malvern Hills District Council to develop land off Mill Lane in Chase Ward. The plans included affordable housing and a recreational area. Countryside Properties asked the Town Council if it wished to be gifted the recreational land and be responsible for maintaining it.

Malvern Town Councillors thought it would be an ideal opportunity to provide a good service for the residents of the new development rather than the land being managed by an outside company, and in August 2019 Malvern Town Council resolved to take ownership of the piece of recreational land adjacent to Adam Lea Play (accessed from Clover Way)

It was also agreed that a public consultation should take place so that residents of the new houses and from surrounding areas could put forward their proposals for how this land could be used – a BMX pump track, a wetlands area, and expansion and improvement of the current play area have already been suggested but the hope is that even more ideas will be put forward at the public engagement events.

Please come along to one of the public consultation events and have some input into this new venture. The events will be held in February and March and will be advertised on the Town Council's social media, in the Malvern Gazette and on noticeboards around Malvern.



How to contact your local councillor

Council Information

2023 COUNCIL MEETINGS

Please check our website for details of upcoming meetings and where they will be held.

Council meetings start at 6pm.

Upcoming Full Council meetings: Thursday 9 February, Thursday 2 March, held at the Council Chamber, Malvern Hills District Council in Avenue Road.

The Annual Town Meeting will be held on Thursday 23 March, 7pm, venue tbc. This is not a council meeting but a chance to have your say on matters relating to the town.

Chase Ward

Nick Houghton, Mayor 07752 488365
cllrnickhoughton@malvern-tc.org.uk

David Mead 07769 032263
cllrdavidmead@malvern-tc.org.uk

Josie Wilkinson 01684 577480
cllrjosephinewilkinson@malvern-tc.org.uk

VACANCY

Link Ward

Neville Mills 01684 439242
cllrnevillemills@malvern-tc.org.uk

Freya Matthews-Jones 07915 976727
cllrfreymatthewsjones@malvern-tc.org.uk

Kaleem Aksar 07397 396439
cllrkaleemaksar@malvern-tc.org.uk

David Watkins 01684 562106
cllrdavidwatkins@malvern-tc.org.uk

North Malvern Ward

Clive Hooper, Deputy Mayor 01684 562214
cllrclivehooper@malvern-tc.org.uk

Lou Lowton, 07531 777344
cllrloulowton@malvern-tc.org.uk

Pickersleigh Ward

Caroline Bovey 01684 562967
cllrcarolinebovey@malvern-tc.org.uk

Lynne Lambeth 01684 560461
cllrlynnelambeth@malvern-tc.org.uk

Jack Satterthwaite 07999 810160
cllrjacksatterthwaite@malvern-tc.org.uk

VACANCY

Dyson Perrins Ward

Clive Fletcher 07896 623006
cllrclivefletcher@malvern-tc.org.uk

Ronan McLaverty—Head
cllrromanmclavertyhead@malvern-tc.org.uk

Aiden Stitt 07752 085234
cllraidanstitt@malvern-tc.org.uk

Priory Ward

Josephine Leibrandt
cllrjosephineleibrandt@malvern-tc.org.uk

Cynthia Palmer 01684 891143
cllrcynthiapalmer@malvern-tc.org.uk

VACANCY

Malvern Town Council

Town Clerk: Linda Blake, 28-30 Belle Vue Terrace, Malvern WR14 4PZ

Tel: 01684 566 667 email: lblake@malvern-tc.org.uk or website: www.malverntowncouncil.org