

WELLS NEWS

Autumn/Winter 2022



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Chairman's Words



I would like to thank my fellow Parish Councillors who have been tremendously supportive, especially Dan Preece in his role as Vice Chair of the Council. It's been business as usual and we've kept our hard-working Clerk, Sarah, very busy over this period, so I extend our heartfelt

thanks to her – without whom the council just wouldn't run.

Following the death of our wonderful Queen Elizabeth II, the council decided to cancel the Summer Fete. We have given the unused tombola items to our local primary schools and hope they can make good use of them at their Christmas fairs. I would thank all those on the Events Committee for all their hard work, especially Chair Ian Burrage who has decided to step down and so we are looking for another Chair for this role. Also grateful thanks to our Parish Lengthsman, Steve Maund, the supporters who run the stalls and to Howard Allen and all who organise the classic cars for the show, for their enthusiasm in making our previous events so successful. We look forward to seeing you in 2023. If you would like to lend a hand, then please contact us — we welcome all support.

Everyone is welcome to this year's Remembrance Sunday commemorations at the War Memorial on Wells. This marks a turning point in the year and a more reflective period when it's good to think about others: the sacrifices that people made and still make and how we can offer our support. The celebratory period of Christmas lies ahead and it will soon be time to light up the living Christmas tree

on Fruitland and also the tree installed in the Jubilee Fountain Garden. We also have our Christmas Carol Concert in the Village Hall on Friday 9 December to look forward to.

We welcome Andy Pitt, our new Councillor from Upper Welland, and we said goodbye to Cllr Tonya O'Donnell who has moved to Anglesey. There are three councillor vacancies, so if any parishioner would like to get involved in this rewarding work, then please contact Sarah.

Recently, I spoke to someone photographing the lit gas lamps and it confirmed their value as a source of community pride and identity. Over the summer the gas lamps have been repainted and will be serviced during autumn. Steve Maund has continued to maintain the Parish Cemetery, the Assarts Road Playing Field and St Wulstan's Village Green to the usual excellent standard. We also have three emergency defibrillators: at Wells Primary School, the Wyche Institute and Morrisons shop on the Wells Road. Please visit www.heartstartmalvern.org.uk for more information and guidance on the use of this equipment.

Finally, I would like to thank our District Councillors who have carried out a great deal of work on behalf of the parish within their respective local authorities. Our thanks must also go to the local policing team, PCSO Karen Watson, for her support around our Parish. I should also thank all the other contributors to this edition who have devoted considerable effort to making it as readable as ever. I hope you all enjoy this edition of the Wells News, and we look forward to seeing you at future events throughout the year.

Chris O'Donnell

Chair of Malvern Wells Parish Council, November 2022

District Report

It has been a momentous year – and as we approach Christmas we will miss the presence of our dear Queen who has served us all so selflessly for the last 70 years. It was my privilege to represent you at the Proclamation on the Accession of King Charles at the Council House on 11 September and we now start a new chapter with King Charles.

Looking ahead, we take comfort from a much reduced threat from COVID-19 and its impact on our lives. Although the virus remains a threat, it seems to have mutated to a less lethal strain – and our vaccination programme provides a shield to reduce the likelihood of infection. A bit of normality has returned, so let me wish you all an enjoyable festive season with friends and family.

I sit on the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee overseeing the delivery of health services across the county. I must praise all our health service workers – doctors, nurses, support staff, ambulance crews and more – who have worked with great dedication and continue to deliver care to us all in these very challenging times. Thank you each and every one. One good piece of news to report is that we now have robot-assisted surgery available to us in Worcestershire, which will be used for prostate cancer operations. Eventually, new robotic procedures will be introduced for other conditions, thus improving the safety and success of surgical interventions available in Worcestershire.

Another major event this year was the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the resulting destabilisation of the world order. This

impacts each of us and has resulted in the increase of energy costs and the cost of living crisis will be felt by us all. It means that some households will find it difficult to pay bills and to heat and feed themselves as result of rising prices. I have taken on the role in the District Council of Champion for Poverty where I will be looking at ways to support those in our community who struggle in making ends meet. So please let me know if you are affected and are unable to cope, and I will try to sort out a solution.

Finally, I want to bring your attention to a new initiative for our communities. We have been awarded £2.5million from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), which offers a three-year funding stream for local leaders to use within their parishes across the Malvern Hills. The primary goal of the UKSPF is to build pride in our places and increase life chances for residents. Given that people's lives are shaped by the social and physical fabric of their communities, the aim of the fund is to improve the places where people live and to support individuals and businesses. We have three Policy Panels – Communities, Economy and Environment – and the chairs of these will be formulating policies to target this funding on local priorities against measurable goals. The next step is to identify projects working with the private sector, civil society and others to make improvements that benefit our communities. So please contact me if you have an idea that fits into one of these three categories that may need support and would be a benefit to our communities.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
John Gallagher *District Councillor*

Priory and Malvern Wells Safer Neighbourhood Team

As the nights draw in we encourage residents to light up their property, both upstairs and downstairs. The best way is to buy some timer switches and set them to certain times whilst you are out. There are also various options online, where you can use Apps to turn lights on and off.

For those who do not go online, you can buy light switches that you can use manually. Speak to members of your family or friends, who may be able to help you to get suitable light switches for your home.

What is Cyber Crime?

Cyber crime is when fraudsters target computers, tablets or phones, or use the internet to swindle you. Our increased use of electronic devices for everyday activities means that cyber criminals have a wealth of opportunity to commit crime.

What is Action Fraud?

Action Fraud is the UK's national reporting centre for fraud and cyber crime. Members of the public, businesses and charities can report to Action Fraud online or on the phone.

Victims' reports are assessed by specialists to see if they are suitable for further action and are then sent to the relevant law enforcement agency to investigate.

What should I do if I'm a victim of fraud or cyber crime?

You can report fraud and cyber crime using the online reporting tool: www.actionfraud.police.uk This is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

If you do not have internet access or if you require more support, you can also contact **Action Fraud** on **0300 123 2040** to speak to an advisor.

Why do people in the UK report fraud and cyber crime to Action Fraud instead of the Police?

Action Fraud takes reports from victims across the whole of Britain, which provides a clear picture of the scale of fraud and cyber crime, and allows law enforcement to link crimes that happen across the country. This kind of intelligence is the key to disrupting cyber crime.

What happens once I have made a report?

When you have made a report to Action Fraud you will be given a National Fraud Reporting Centre (NFRC) Number and you will receive an update within 28 working days.

Why is it important to report?

Each year, fraud and cyber crime costs the UK economy £193 billion. The money obtained by fraudsters and cyber criminals can be used to fund crimes like drug smuggling, terrorism and people trafficking.

By reporting fraud and cyber crime, you will enable law enforcement to understand how these criminals operate and help catch them.

What should I do if I need Victim Support?

Action Fraud can refer victims to Victim Support for confidential emotional support and practical help. All Action Fraud advisors will offer this referral once they have taken your fraud report.

PC 2451 Tredwell and PCSO 6209 Watson

Community News

Sing a Song of Christmas 2022

Our Christmas *Sing Along* is planned for **Friday 9 December 2022**. It starts at **7:30 pm** in Malvern Wells Village Hall. Come along and enjoy singing your favourite carols at this indoor carol singing event with mince pies and mulled beverages. There will also be a voluntary collection for a local charity.



We are hoping that COVID won't affect the carols this year, but we may once again be asking you to Wrap Up Warmly as you did in 2021. We will be inviting the Malvern Wells School Choir to sing, along with the Wells Singers and we plan a slightly more informal Christmas setting for our *Sing A Song of Christmas* in the village hall for 2022.

For more information on the Christmas Celebrations please contact
Helen Burrage
Tel: **01684 578238**
Email: **burragehelen@gmail.com**

From the Clerk

Council Elections 2023

Malvern Hills District will be having council elections in May 2023. This will include Malvern Wells Parish Council. If you are passionate about your community and want to make a difference — we need you!

Councillors can make a big impact on the quality of life of local people and how local issues are dealt with. These are just some of the things your councillors have been involved in over the last 12 months:

- Giving grants and donations
- Platinum Jubilee garden party
- Planning consultations
- Electoral boundaries
- Christmas carols evening
- Fete
- Neighbourhood Plan
- Gas lamp painting
- Policing priorities
- Cemetery
- Grass cutting
- Wildlife enhancement
- Newsletter

We need people from all backgrounds and experiences, young and old, who reflect the communities they serve, to put themselves forward for election.

What qualifications do councillors need?

There are no qualifications to be a councillor, but a willingness to engage with communities and to participate in the council's meetings and activities are key. You may know someone in your community who fits the bill — you can nominate them and encourage them to stand.

How do the elections work?

If there are more candidates than there are seats on the council, then an election will be held. The council makes decisions on behalf of residents and councillors will be representing you, so it's important that residents take the opportunity to vote for the candidate who will do that the best.

Are you eligible to be a councillor?

You must be:

- British or a citizen of the Commonwealth or 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.

You can't be a councillor if you:

- work for the council you want to be a councillor for, or for another local authority in a political restricted post
- are the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order
- have been sentenced to prison for three months or more (including suspended sentences) during the five years before election day
- have been convicted of a corrupt or illegal practice by an election court.

If you are in any doubt about whether you are eligible to stand as a councillor, you should contact the electoral services at Malvern Hills District Council for advice. Or if you would like to know more about being a councillor in Malvern Wells, take a look at our website and contact the clerk.

Contact Us

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www.malvernwells-pc.gov.uk
clerk@malvernwells-pc.gov.uk

Your District Councillors

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Your County Councillor

Jack Satterthwaite

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Your local MP

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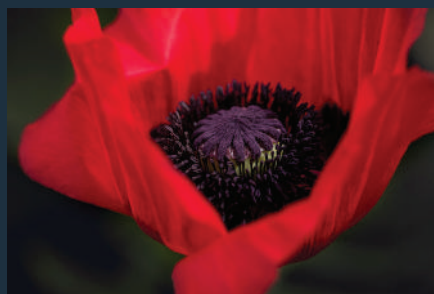
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Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service

The War Memorial, Wells Road

Sunday 13 November 2022
12noon

(Parade leaves village hall 11:50am)



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Members of the Parish Council invite all parishioners and friends to join them in a short Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial, Wells Road

Light refreshments will be served afterwards in Malvern Wells Village Hall.

Road closure during the event

The Wells Road will be closed to through traffic from the junction with Hanley Road to the junction with Grundys Lane from **11:45am** until **12:15pm**.