

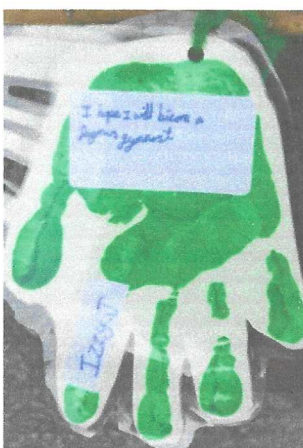
Malvern's Well Dressing and Water Festival

Every May Day, Malvern celebrates its rich heritage by inviting people to take part in, or simply to visit, its Well Dressing and Water Festival. Each year, our family spends an entertaining afternoon travelling around many of Malvern's 50 or so wells, springs and spouts, which, following months of planning, are transformed overnight into a pantheon of imagination, creativity, colour, history, art and culture.



With its history firmly rooted in Pagan traditions from the 13th century, May Day celebrates the life-affirming arrival of Spring, and for hundreds of years, Malvern has given thanks on May Day for its iconic natural water supply, which has brought many visitors to Malvern, resulting, in the Victorian era, in the building of both Malvern Station and the historic Imperial Hotel, which is now home to my school, MSJ.

Malvern's wells are dressed, usually to a theme, in an array of often handmade artefacts, to celebrate nature, friendship, happiness, flight –this year even the colour yellow! My favourite year was several years ago, when my primary school, Malvern Wells, decorated the Jubilee Well in the theme "The Tree of Life".



Every child wrote descriptions or drew images of important people in their lives, important events that they remembered, and their hopes and aspirations for their future lives. These represented the roots, the branches and the leaves of their own Tree of Life. I was in Year 6 at the time, and I remember helping the little ones in Reception with their drawings, as well as laughing with my friends as we recalled our own important events. It has become a branch in my own tree of life.

Whatever your age, community events like the Well Dressing bring people together. Whether planning, taking part, visiting, or voting, we can all proudly celebrate our unique town - Malvern.

