



**Website:** [www.malvernspa.org](http://www.malvernspa.org)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/malvernwelldressing](https://www.facebook.com/malvernwelldressing)

**Emails:** Membership, general inquiries & comments: [info@malvernspa.org](mailto:info@malvernspa.org)

**Well-dressing:** [welldressing@malvernspa.org](mailto:welldressing@malvernspa.org)

**Joining instructions:** New members are always welcome! If you would like to join, please email membership secretary John Bibby at [info@malvernspa.org](mailto:info@malvernspa.org), or write to MSA Membership Secretary c/o 24, Assarts Lane, Malvern WR14 4JR. The annual fee is £10, and can be paid by standing order. Donations are also very welcome. Thank you.

**Contact:** If you would like to find out more about the MSA, are interested in volunteering to help with any of our projects, or have suggestions for new projects, newsletter articles or activities, please get in touch via [info@malvernspa.org](mailto:info@malvernspa.org).



## VOLUNTEERING WITH malvern spa association

*"Protecting, enhancing, and promoting knowledge of, Malvern's spring water heritage"*

[www.malvernspa.org](http://www.malvernspa.org)



Malvern Spa Association is a not-for-profit organisation

- \* *Are you interested in Malvern's natural and cultural history?*
- \* *The Malvern Hills and Malvern spring water in particular?*
- \* *Would you like to learn more about them, whilst helping to conserve and enhance them for the future?*
- \* *Through the work we do, can we help you learn new skills, and / or develop existing ones?*
- \* *Would you like to join a community of people who are already enjoying doing all of the above?*

Malvern Spa Association is a not-for-profit organisation, which began life in 1996 and was founded in 1998. With the community, for the last twenty-five years we have protected, enhanced, and promoted knowledge of, Malvern's extraordinary spring water heritage. That is still our aim.

You may already know us as 'the MSA'. You might walk on the Hills, collect and drink the water, visit the wells which are dressed every May Day, and enjoy the Malvern Water Festival events, which are run by MSA members and friends with the help of MHDC and other local organisations.

But we wouldn't exist at all without our army of dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers, many of whom have been with us since the very beginning. A few are committee members; many are well-dressers; some lead, or are involved with, MSA projects; others just lend a hand as and when. Several are experts in their fields, for example doctors, scientists, geologists, environmental consultants, landscape architects, historians, photographers, and dowsers, to name but a few.

Malvern only became what it is today because of the springs, the purity of the water, and – according to many – its healing properties: these qualities have drawn people from far and wide for thousands of years. Yet, in 1996, most of the water features were neglected and had fallen into disrepair. You couldn't even buy Malvern water in Malvern. People had forgotten about the town's early origins, and its heyday in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, when it was '*the* place to go' for what became known as 'the Water Cure'. Even Charles Dickens came, and wrote a play about it!

Since then, with the help of Heritage Lottery and other funding, we have discovered previously unrecorded springs, successfully restored many water features, and created several new ones, including Malvhina – which was the first public drinking spout in the town centre. We carry out research, undertake surveys, run educational, arts and media projects, and publish documents.

But most importantly, we have realised what a significant role Malvern water plays in the community, and that regardless of age, background or interest, it is respect and gratitude for the water which brings people together. Today, the annual well-dressing events and water festivals involve several hundred local volunteers, attracting not only the townsfolk, but also people from around the world. This year's event was a huge success, and put Malvern firmly back on the map.

We consider the water to be a great asset to the town and its communities, and want to make sure it continues to be so. If you would like to be involved, a few of our current activities, projects and activities are listed overleaf, along with some of the skills that you could either learn, or bring.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP / WHAT YOU COULD LEARN

Below is a list of projects, tasks, initiatives and other activities that MSA members, friends and volunteers are currently working on / involved with:

**ACCOUNTS / FINANCE:** We desperately need a new Treasurer! Ours has been in post for 25 years, and would like to hand over the reins to someone with a little time to spare, and who is keen to learn.

**ADMINISTRATION / SECRETARIAL:** We also need a new secretary! Someone who would organise and attend meetings, help with admin eg Charities' Commission requirements, and general organisation.

**ARCHIVING:** One day, we would like to see a centre devoted to Malvern's natural and cultural heritage. In the meantime, we need to preserve Malvern water's heritage, archive and store precious artefacts and documents, make them available for research and media, and perhaps publish a catalogue.

**ART & MEDIA:** We are working on books about Malvern water for publication, with photographer Jan Sedlacek. We also produce calendars and greetings cards, which we sell. Profits go towards Malvern water projects. We're planning a new play about Malvern water, and work with various local theatre, dance and arts groups. We would like to commission new water features that could also be art projects.

**DOWSING:** We work closely with Malvern Dowsers, who help us locate springs, pipes, and other features.

**EDUCATION:** We would like to create educational resources for adults and children; for the latter, perhaps linked to the National Curriculum. The Hills are a natural 'forest school' resource, so we can offer days out, and specialised courses and events for a wide variety of groups and organisations.

**EVENTS:** Well dressing and the Water Festival involve many months of planning and preparation – see well dressing below. We give talks and presentations, but also like to invite speakers. We used to have regular social events which were very well-attended, but need an organiser! In fact, in September, it's our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary: we'd love to arrange a water-themed community event, perhaps town-wide.

**FUNDING / GRANT APPLICATIONS:** We need funds for all the projects and initiatives we have planned, especially restoring water features, some of which are in urgent need of repair; also, we'd like to create new ones. In addition, we want to promote Malvern as a spa town again, with spring water bathing.

**LIAISON:** We work with many bodies and organisations which give us help and support; however, we'd like to talk to more people about the water and our work, and raise awareness of the importance of water quality and availability more widely. Also, to keep close links with colleagues abroad, especially in Lázně Jeseník, Czech Republic (originally Gräfenberg, the birthplace of hydrotherapy / the water cure).

**PR & PROMOTION:** Press, publicity, social media, newsletter, exhibitions. Products using Malvern water.

**RESEARCH:** Citizens' science projects, historical research esp. into springs (our info is very out-of-date), ethnographic study. Surveying, mapping, esp. creating online / Google maps, catalogue / store data etc.

**WEBSITE:** Urgently needs updating / redesigning, new content adding, esp. keeping up to date with news and events. Also need good photographs (may be opps to work with photographer Jan Sedlacek).

**WELL DRESSING:** This event involves hundreds of volunteers of all ages! It's hard work, but great fun.

**WELL WARDENS:** People who will keep an eye on the springs and wells, report problems, clear litter etc.