



Welcome to the winter edition of the Trust's newsletter

We'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone 'Season's Greetings' for this festive period. This year has been extraordinary and we have been working hard to conserve this the special landscape of the Malvern Hills and Commons whilst experiencing the largest number of visitors we've ever seen.

We wish you, your family and friends well and a happy 2021.

Preparing for festive visits

Whether it's working up an appetite for the Christmas lunch or working off the extravagant feast, local people and visitors flock to the Malvern Hills and Commons over the festive period.

During this exceptional year, we'd like to wish everyone a 'Merry Christmas' and, to help you have a safe and happy visit, please follow our top tips:

- **Be nice, say 'Hi'!** - There may be walkers, cyclists, horse riders, birdwatchers, photographers, dog walkers and others making the most of the outdoors. Be respectful of others and be nice, say 'Hi!'. Wishing your fellow visitors a 'Merry Christmas' lets others know that you're approaching and spreads that Christmas cheer.
- **Follow the latest Government advice** - The situation can change quickly so please keep up to date with the latest Covid advice from the [Government](#). Stay local where possible, stay distanced and always wash your hands when you get home or before eating. Keeping socially distanced from others is important to keep you, your family and our local community safe and well.
- **Keep the sheep safe** - Cattle and sheep graze the Hills and Commons all year round and you can help keep the animals safe and happy but putting your pet on a lead near the livestock compartments. Check our [Stockwatch](#) before you visit so you can be prepared.
- **Park responsibly** - The Hills and Commons can be busy over the Christmas period. Please park responsibly in the designated car parks. Parking on the verges causes damage and can destroy the wildflower habitats growing along the roadsides. The money from the car parks goes towards the care of the Hills and Commons, whether that's conserving rare species or making path improvements. We are extremely grateful for this contribution to our charity.
- **Take your litter home** - If there are no bins available or the bins are full, please take your rubbish home with you and put it in your bin at home. Litter can be dangerous to livestock and native wildlife so please help us to keep this landscape clean. This includes dog poo too!
- **Enjoy yourself!** - Make the most of the fresh air and the space to explore this wonderful landscape this festive season.

Office opening and contacting the Trust

The office will be closed over the Christmas period from the following dates:



For the sale of car park passes, the public counter will be closed from 12:45pm on Wednesday 23rd December 2020 and will re-open on Tuesday 5th January 2021 at 10am.

The Trust's offices will be closed from 5pm on Thursday 24th December and will re-open on Monday 4th January 2021 at 9am.

During this period, our wardens will still be working across the Hills and Commons, patrolling and providing advice to visitors. For urgent enquiries (including livestock issues), please call the normal office number 01684 892002 and follow the instructions provided. Wardens will be contactable via this number if needed. This service is available 24/7.

In an emergency, always call 999.

We're hiring - Estate Supervisor



We have a vacancy to join our dedicated estate management team.

The post involves a wide range of practical conservation and estate management work, with particular focus on public access and furniture maintenance, tree management, building maintenance, and supervision of staff and contractors. The works are undertaken across the Trust's land holding of the Malvern Hills and Commons.

For further information and application forms can be found on our [website](#).

The closing dates for applications is Monday 18th January 2021 (12 noon).



Tree safety works to begin

In the new year, our annual tree safety works will begin.

Following a routine inspection, which covers a third of our land each year, an independent arboriculturalist has identified trees next to highways and properties that require work for health and safety reasons. This work is scheduled to begin in January 2021.

Tree work will take place in areas around Malvern including Holywell Road, Jubilee Drive and British Camp.

Memorial benches offer a place to rest



Two memorial benches have been placed in the Memorial Orchard of the Community Woodland, Townsend Way.

The seats have been kindly donated in memory of loved ones and provide a place for visitors to the woodland to rest.

There are spaces for more benches through the woodland and those wishing to make a donation can make an application through the [website](#). We'd like to provide more opportunities for people to sit and take in nature throughout the woodland.

Interpretation is due to be installed in the woodland to provide visitor information in the spring, following a new bridge and path surfacing earlier this year in the Community Woodland.

Local legends brought to life



A new interpretation board at Gardiner's Quarry car park brings to life characters who have had an impact on this special landscape.

Visitors can find out more about the Ballard family who were instrumental in establishing the Trust (then Conservators) and the Gardiner family, after whom the quarry is named. Recognition is also given to those who kindly donated trees to support the future of nearby Thirds Wood.

A map and further access information is also provided to help people find their way and explore the local area.

Interpretation across the Malvern Hills and Commons is being updated to feature some of its important features and special qualities including geology, archaeology, recreation, wildlife and heritage.

Volunteers are back in action

Following the relaxation of the most recent lockdown, we have carefully restarted some of our volunteer conservation days. In line with current guidelines and with Covid safe practices, small groups of volunteers (6) are back on the Hills and Commons to undertake practical work to conserve the rare habitats and wildlife.

Alongside MHT staff and contractors, volunteers will be working this winter to restore the precious open habitats that can become lost through the regrowth of scrub and trees. Further information about this type of conservation project can be found on our [website](#).

Volunteer activities were suspended through much of this year due to Covid and there are many tasks to catch up with!

Unfortunately, we are unable to accept any new volunteers at this time as the safer, smaller groups mean we're at capacity. As soon as it is safe to do so, we look forward to welcoming new faces to help care for the Hills and Commons.



Sign up on our website to receive our newsletter straight to your inbox [here](#).

Malvern Hills Trust, Manor House, Grange Road, Malvern, Worcestershire, WR14 3EY
Malvern Hills Trust is the working name of the Malvern Hills Conservators (charity number
515804)

www.malvernhills.org.uk • info@malvernhills.org.uk • 01684 892002
