



# Visit Malvern

The Official Great Malvern Town Guide

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Things to see   Things to do   Food + drink   Out and about



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

The  Malverns

Malvern  
Hills  
  
District  
Council



# Malvern's infinite variety never ceases to delight...

Great Malvern is largely Victorian but its roots go back much further: Iron and Bronze Age forts and tracks ran along the hills and Great Malvern was only a collection of small cottages until the Middle Ages. The oldest parts of the town can be seen around the Priory Church which was founded in 1085 when Benedictine monks settled here and built a Priory, which was a daughter house to Westminster Abbey.

Great Malvern originated as a spa village with therapeutic qualities attributed to its springs. It was the Georgian fancy of taking the waters and later the Victorian popularity of the water cure that transformed Malvern into a Spa town.

Doctors Gully and Wilson brought hydropathy – the water cure – from Austria and built the first water cure house in 1845. The growing influx of visitors necessitated accommodation, information and social recreation to rival such centres as Bath and Cheltenham. Although Malvern is no longer a Spa town many of the impressive buildings used for the water cure are still in use as public buildings.



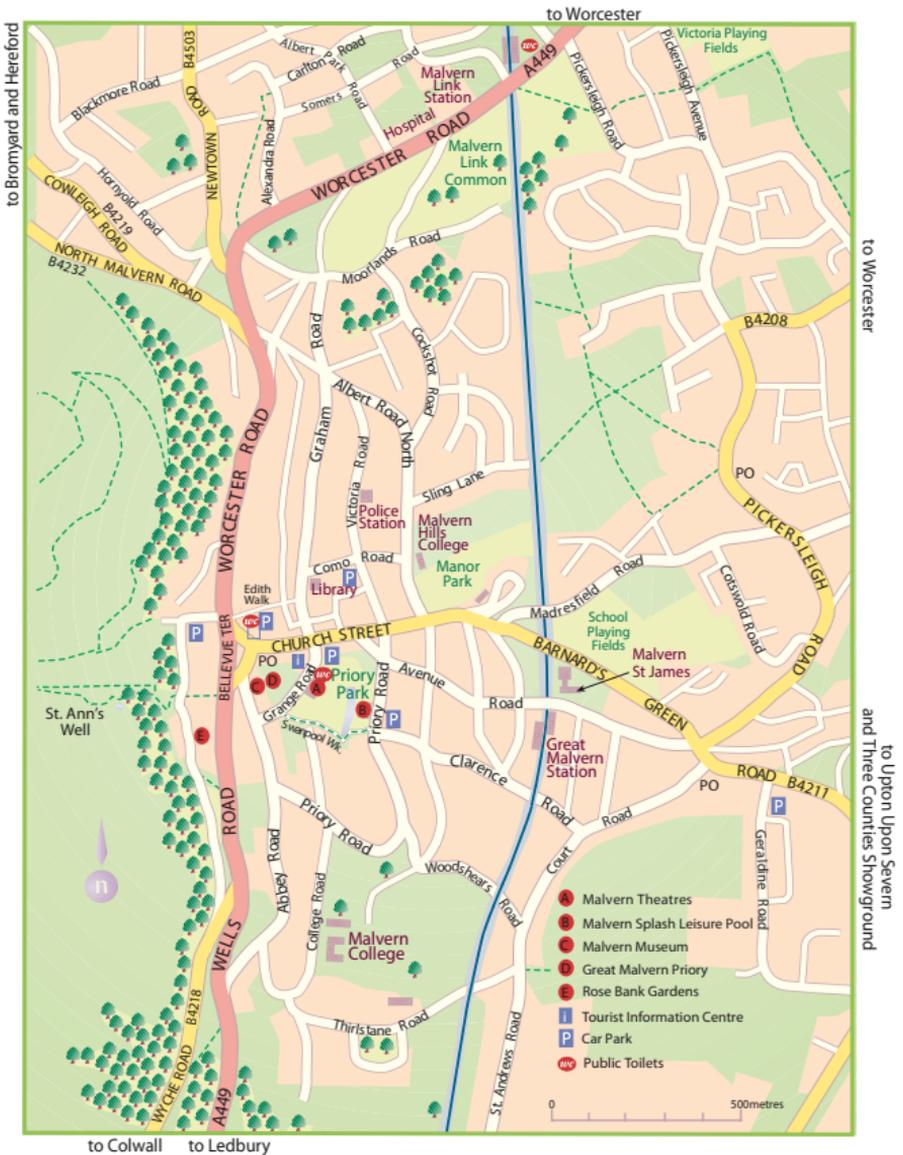
The popularity of Great Malvern continued to grow even when the water cure had declined. The 20th century saw the start of Festivals held at the Winter Gardens celebrating the works of Sir Edward Elgar and George Bernard Shaw in Malvern.

Today there is a new theatre complex on the site of the old Winter Gardens. The old Iron Age tracks leading to St. Ann's Well and onto the hills are still walked by visitors, and cars as well as people now traverse Belle Vue Terrace. The delight of Great Malvern today is its unspoilt beauty, with a glimpse of past Victoriana, stunning views of the Severn Valley and exciting music and theatre.





# Welcome to Great Malvern





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How to Find Us

Malvern Tourist Information Centre

The Lyttelton Well Courtyard, 6 Church St.,

Malvern, Worcs, WR14 2AY

Telephone: 01684 892289

A black and white portrait of Edward Elgar, a man with a prominent mustache, wearing a suit and tie. The portrait is partially obscured by a white triangle pointing to the right.

Edward Elgar



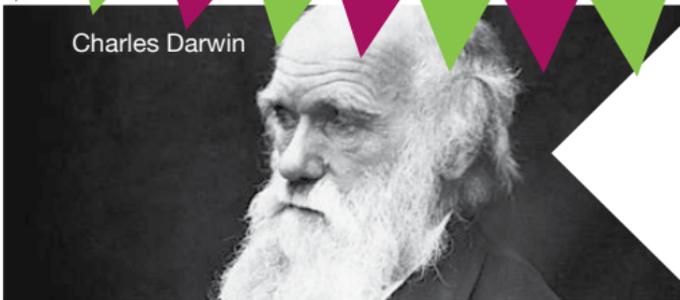
## Inspired by the hills...

As a fashionable Spa Resort, many famous people came to visit the area including Charles Darwin, C. S. Lewis, Charles Dickens, Florence Nightingale, Peter Roget, George Bernard Shaw and Sir Edward Elgar. Today people continue to be inspired by the hills.

### Edward Elgar

Sir Edward Elgar, the famous English composer, was born in a humble cottage called The Firs at Lower Broadheath between Malvern and Worcester. Elgar lived in various houses in Malvern and his music was often influenced by his surroundings. He was inspired by the Malvern Hills to write many of his most famous works including The Enigma Variations, Caractacus, Cockaigne, The Dream of Gerontius and the Pomp and Circumstance Marches.

Elgar personally requested that his birthplace should be the site at which his music is remembered in order to celebrate the lasting inspiration he found in the surrounding landscape. After his death his daughter persuaded the Corporation of Worcester to purchase the cottage and a museum was created containing a unique collection. The Birthplace, known again as The Firs, is now leased by the National Trust. A room in the Visitor Centre has become a new exhibition space, containing Elgar's desk and chair and examples of his manuscripts and his writing implements. A narrative of



his life, photographs, videos, and interactive exhibits are also on display.

Sir Edward Elgar is buried with his wife and daughter at St Wulstan's Church, Little Malvern.

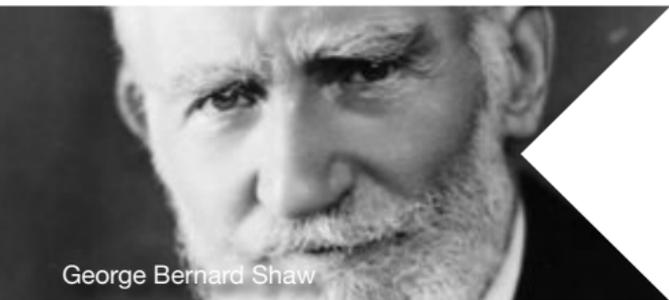
## George Bernard Shaw

George Bernard Shaw was closely involved with the Malvern Drama Festival from its start in 1929. He wrote his play *The Apple Cart* for the first festival, and five of his plays had their premiere at Malvern Theatre.

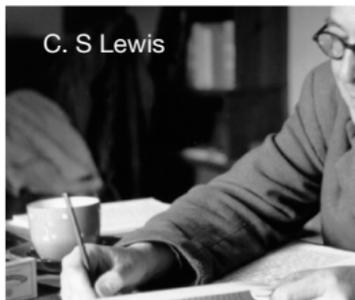
## Charles Darwin

Charles Darwin visited Malvern on several occasions to take the waters. His 10 year old daughter Annie was also treated during their stay in Montreal House. Sadly she did not recover and was buried in Great Malvern Priory Church Yard.





George Bernard Shaw



C. S Lewis

Inspired by the hills...

## Jenny Lind

Jenny Lind was a Victorian Soprano and was also known as the Swedish Nightingale. She was well known throughout Europe and America. She lived for some time before her death in 1887 at Wynds Point. She is buried in Great Malvern Cemetery with a Memorial in Westminster.

## C. S. Lewis

C. S. Lewis lived in Malvern as a child, and went to Malvern College. Lewis introduced J.R.R. Tolkien to the Head of English, George Sayer, and the Lord of the Rings was first put down on tape at his Malvern home.



## Peter Mark Roget

Compiler of the famous Thesaurus of English words and phrases died whilst on holiday in the area and is buried in the Churchyard of St. James' in West Malvern.

## Sir Charles Hastings

Founder of the British Medical Association, lived in Barnards Green House, Poolbrook Road.



## The Home of Radar...

In 1942 the TRE Telecommunications Research Establishment moved temporarily to Malvern closely followed by Radar Research in 1944. The two organisations researched radar technology which gave rise to new ground control and surveillance information utilised successfully by the Allies during World War Two.

The post-war period was the peak of radar research activity on the site. Air defence and Radar research combined in 1953 being renamed The Royal Radar Establishment. Areas of research included anti-aircraft missile systems as well as civil radar, microwaves and computer software. After partial privatisation DERA (the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency) was formed in 1995.

In 2001 the organisation split into QinetiQ and DSTL (the Defence Science and Technology Lab).

The Malvern Radar and Technology History Society (MRATHS) was launched in October 2016 and exists to preserve and celebrate the heritage of government research in Malvern. See [www.mraths.org.uk](http://www.mraths.org.uk)



## The Morgan Motor Car Company

H. F. S. Morgan founded the Morgan Motor Company, in 1910 and the Morgan name made its first public appearance at the Olympia Motor Show in the same year. The original car only had three wheels, two at the front and a central wheel at the rear.

The new factory on Pickersleigh Road was opened in 1918. The factory has remained there and has traditionally been known as the 'Works'.

Tours can be arranged to see the famous cars that are still hand made in Malvern (Monday to Thursday am/pm – Fridays mornings only). Morgan Motors, Pickersleigh Road, Malvern Link. Telephone Number: 01684 584580 [www.morgan-motor.co.uk](http://www.morgan-motor.co.uk)

## Holywell Malvern Spring Water

The Holywell Spring in the Malvern Hills is the original source of bottled water in the UK. For centuries water was bottled at the site and distributed locally until, in 1843, Mr Schweppes came to town and really commercialised Malvern Water at the Holywell Spring. It was during this period of time that Queen Victoria happened upon Malvern Water at the Great Exhibition, thus ensuring it has been a favourite with the British Royal Family ever since.

Mike and Rhys Humm bought the bottling works in 1999 and worked hard to restore the building which was largely in disrepair. The restoration work started in 2008, and the bottling works reopened in 2009. This is now the sole source of bottled Malvern spring water, following Coca-Cola's decision to withdraw from Malvern Water in 2010.



Please check the website for 2021 opening hours:  
[www.malvernmuseum.co.uk](http://www.malvernmuseum.co.uk) Tel: 01684 567811

The Museum shows many fascinating relics of Malvern's history and is housed in the medieval Abbey Gateway. The building (or Priory Gatehouse) was built between 1480 and 1500 but there has probably been a gatehouse here since 1145. The displays are laid out throughout the gateway in five different rooms.

The Malvern Hills Room tells the story of the rocks of the Malvern Hills, formed over 600 million years ago. Also mentioned are the Iron Age Hill Forts and the work of the Malvern Hills Trust.

The Medieval Room reflects the history of the Royal Forest or Chase along with illustrations of different aspects of the beautiful Priory Church. Evidence of Prehistoric and Roman activity is also shown.

The Water Cure Room traces the history of Malvern Spring Water and its uses. The water cure doctors and their hydropathic establishments, and the bottling of water from 1622 onwards are depicted here.

The Victorian Room looks at Victorian Enterprise, local government, leisure, costume, trades, the railway and education, and has an exhibition on the life and work of Sir Edward Elgar.

The Twentieth Century Room shows the effects of two World Wars on Malvern, the origins and developments of Santler and Morgan cars, the history of defence research, and of the Malvern Festival.



# Great Malvern Priory

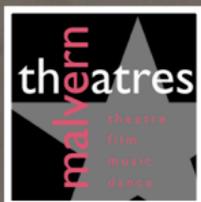
Church Street Telephone No: 01684 561020  
[www.greatmalvernpriory.org.uk](http://www.greatmalvernpriory.org.uk)

Great Malvern Priory was founded by Benedictine monks in 1085 and was a monastery for over 450 years until 1541 when it was bought for £20 by local people to save it from destruction. Since then the Priory has been the parish church at the centre of Great Malvern. It contains some of the finest medieval stained glass in the country, plus the largest collection of medieval floor and wall tiles as well as carved misericords from the 14th and 15th Century.

The original Norman Church, the remains of which can be seen in the massive Norman arches of the nave, was part of the Benedictine Priory of Great Malvern founded in 1085 by a Monk called Aldwyn. The Church was developed over succeeding years and largely completed in its present Perpendicular style by 1500.

## Priory Park

Originally part of the Priory Churchyard, Priory Park now adjoins the Theatre Complex. Bands perform in the restored Victorian Bandstand on Sunday afternoons from the end of May to early September. The Council House, an old Victorian Mansion, is situated on the edge of the park. The park is also home to a number of exotic trees including Tulip and Dove trees.



# Malvern Theatres

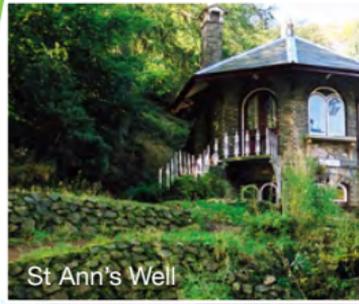
Grange Road - Telephone No: 01684 892277  
[www.malvern-theatres.co.uk](http://www.malvern-theatres.co.uk)

Malvern Theatres is one of the leading regional venues for a wide range of artistic performances. The state of the art Theatre complex attracts pre- and post-London productions and provides top class entertainment throughout the year. The Theatres present a wide variety of performances ranging from successful West End shows to touring Comedy Clubs. The Complex also includes a cinema which shows newly released films as well as contemporary and foreign language films. If music is your passion, then listening to the exhilarating performances of The English Symphony Orchestra and Malvern Concert Club would be the highlight of any visit to the Malverns.

The Festival Theatre later became home to the Malvern Drama Festival, first launched by Sir Barry Jackson in 1928/29 and in the early years saw the premieres of many George Bernard Shaw and J.B. Priestley plays with Sir Edward Elgar conducting his own violin and cello concertos. To entertain the increasing number of people visiting the town the Festival Theatre began life in 1885 as the Great Hall of the Malvern Assembly Rooms and together with the miniature 'Crystal Palace' to one side became the Victorians' Winter Gardens.



Theatre of Small Convenience



St Ann's Well

## Theatre of Small Convenience

The theatre, which originally started life as a Victorian gentlemen's public convenience, entered the Guinness Book of Records in 2002 as the world's smallest theatre, seating a maximum of 12 people within its quirky interior. Its founder, Dennis Neale, regularly put on performances of drama, puppetry, poetry, storytelling and music until his retirement in early 2017.

After a period of uncertainty the theatre officially reopened in May 2018 under the auspices of Malvern Hills College. The College is planning to use the much loved space for a wide variety of events including exhibitions, talks, performance, and sales.

## St. Ann's Well

St. Ann's Road - Telephone No: 01684 560285  
[www.stannswell.co.uk](http://www.stannswell.co.uk)

Known best for its use during the water cure the area around the spring had once been an 11th Century hermitage for monks from Worcester. It is directly above the town, and the cottage was built over the well to provide shelter.

The original cottage can still be seen today and the café offers visitors a range of refreshments. Please see website or ask at the Tourist Information Centre for opening times. Although there are no longer donkeys to carry people up the hill, the 20 minute walk is rewarded with fine views of the town.



## Great Malvern Station

The Great Malvern railway station was built in 1861 to impress the affluent visitors. It is also preserved as the most ornate small station in the country due to the columns supporting the platform roof each decorated with a different design ranging from acorns to spiky chestnuts.

## Gas Lamps

The Malvern gas lamps are possibly the inspiration for the lamp in the forest of C. S. Lewis' *Chronicles of Narnia – The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. The original lamps can be found in the Priory Church yard, along the A449 crossing Wells Common, Holywell Road in Malvern Wells, Moorlands Road in Malvern Link and in West Malvern. These lamps have been upgraded to make them more environmentally friendly.



Priory Churchyard



## The Hills

The Malvern Hills are a nine mile range of ancient rocks made up of granite at least 650 million years old, the best known feature being the ridge that runs almost perfectly from north to south. Other well known features of the Hills are the Iron Age Hill Fort at the Herefordshire Beacon, locally known as British Camp, Midsummer Hill Camp, the Shire Ditch or Red Earl Dyke and the Worcestershire Beacon

The ridge top provides ideal walking conditions and stunning views. The Hills divide the counties of Herefordshire and Worcestershire with the rolling hills and fields of Herefordshire to the West and the flatter plains of the Severn Valley to the East. The highest point on the Hills is the Worcestershire Beacon (425m), followed by North Hill (397m). In total there are some 20 named hills comprising the complete range.

The Malvern Hills and surrounding commons and farm land are designated as an Area of Outstanding Beauty (AONB) and a European Geo Park. The Hills, protected by Act of Parliament, are maintained by the Malvern Hills Trust.

## Route to the Hills

This project promotes Malvern's rich historic and cultural offer to people of all ages. It tells some of Malvern's unique stories through the installation of a new walking route which connects the town with the hills. The route features bespoke signage in the form of 10 information panels and a series of building panels, 5 quirky benches, numerous pavement studs and several unique artworks. Website: [www.routetothehills.com](http://www.routetothehills.com)



## Walking

If you want to relax and take in the breathtaking views, then walks for all abilities are on offer across the Malvern Hills. The town of Great Malvern lies at the northern end of the Hills on the Worcestershire side, below the Worcestershire Beacon and North Hill. There is direct walking access to the Hills from the town via St Ann's Road and Happy Valley or the 95 steps in Rosebank Gardens to St Ann's Well (and café). Access to walking trails can also be made from a number of car parks around the Hills, details of which can be found on the Malvern Hills Trust website:  
[www.malvern hills.org.uk/visiting/parking](http://www.malvern hills.org.uk/visiting/parking)

For the more serious walker the Worcestershire Way is a 31-mile waymarked long distance footpath that starts in Great Malvern and ends in Bewdley. Stage 10 of the 109 mile Geopark Way passes through North Malvern and across the Worcestershire Beacon en route for Colwall.

The Visit the Malverns website – [www.visitthemalverns.org](http://www.visitthemalverns.org) – contains detailed information about walking on the Hills including trails and routes which can be downloaded and a downloadable Walking App.

A Walking Festival takes place annually at the end of May/early June providing a variety of walks to suit every ability and interest.

Guided town walks of Victorian Malvern are run by the local Civic Society on Saturdays and Mondays from April to the end of September. The walks last about one and a half hours and include the main sites of interest in Great Malvern.



Malvern Food Festival



## Swimming & Leisure

Malvern Splash Leisure Complex Priory Road  
Tel: 01684 893423 [www.freedom-leisure.co.uk](http://www.freedom-leisure.co.uk)  
Swimming pool and leisure centre with 25m pool, flume, wave machine and beach. Sauna, steam room, fitness suite and exercise classes. Malvern Splash underwent extensive refurbishment in 2020/21 and has great new facilities for all the family to enjoy.

## Shopping

Enjoy exploring the steep streets and hidden alleyways to discover a fine range of speciality shops and stores. You will find unique goods including locally produced foods, designer clothes and shoes, jewellery and gifts, as well as antique & second hand book shops and arts & craft centres – all guaranteed to keep you happily browsing for hours.

## Markets

Hanley Swan Market, Crowcroft Market @ The Yard in Leigh Sinton and The Fold Market in Bransford are held monthly and are just a short drive from Malvern. Also within easy reach by car are the Teme Valley Market held monthly at The Talbot in Knightwick and regular markets in the charming town of Tenbury Wells. The Farmers' Market is held on the third Saturday of each month in the Great Malvern Priory Grounds. Arts, crafts and food markets are held in the town centre throughout the year.

Please check with the TIC for latest dates.



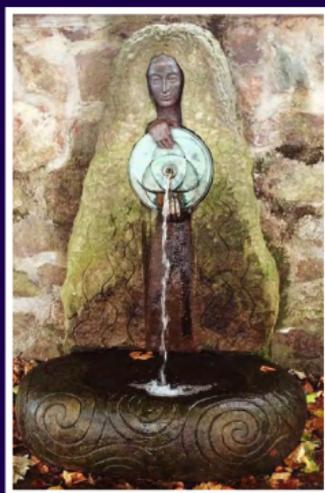
## Food & Drink

### Places to eat

Whatever your taste in food and drink, whether you want top-class cuisine, a Sunday roast or simply afternoon tea, Malvern has something for everyone.

Whilst in Malvern you can sample local produce or sip tea at the tea room once frequented by Sir Edward Elgar and George Bernard Shaw.

### Places to drink



Fill up your water bottle at Malvhina Fountain on Belle Vue Island in Great Malvern to sample the world-famous Malvern Water.

For those that prefer something a bit stronger there are a number of breweries and vineyards dotted around the Malverns producing a variety of distinctive ales, ciders, perrys and wines. We would recommend that you take a trip

out to sample the exceptional flavours on offer and be prepared to taste something special or visit one of the pubs and hotels that serve the real ales of Malvern!



# Regular Events

All sorts of events take place in and around Malvern throughout the year and details can be found on [visitthemalverns.org/whats-on](http://visitthemalverns.org/whats-on). Events are subject to change, so please check organisers' websites for the latest information.

March	Malvern Festival of Ideas	Malvern
March	Tractor World Show	Three Counties Showground
April	Countrytastic	Three Counties Showground
May	Well Dressing Festival	Around Malvern
	RHS Malvern Spring Festival	Three Counties Showground
	Quilts UK	Three Counties Showground
	Malvern Walking Festival	Around the Malverns & further afield
	Great Malvern Food Festival	Priory Grounds
June	Three Counties Championship Dog Show	TCSG
	Royal Three Counties Show	Three Counties Showground
July	Welland Steam Rally	Woodside Farm, Welland
September	Malvern Autumn Show	Three Counties Showground
October	Autumn in Malvern Festival	Around Malvern
	Malvern Caravan Show	Three Counties Showground
	Quilts UK	Three Counties Showground
November	Farming Conference	Three Counties Showground
December	Pantomime	Malvern Theatres
Monthly	Flea & Collectors Fairs	Three Counties Showground
Monthly	Farmers' Market	Great Malvern
Weekly (seasonal)	Bands in the Park	Priory Park, Malvern



Croome Park

## Out & About

### Public Transport around Malvern and the Hills

There are regular bus routes serving Great Malvern, Malvern Link and into Worcester and between Great Malvern and Ledbury. Buses around the Hills are more limited and information can be obtained from Malvern TIC or from [travelinemidlands.co.uk](http://travelinemidlands.co.uk).

### Springs on the Hills

Another feature of the hills are the many springs, wells and fountains. St. Ann's Well, above Great Malvern, and Holy Well, in Malvern Wells, were both used for the water cure.

### Clives Fruit Farm

Farm Shop and Pick Your Own, Upton upon Severn  
T: 01684 592664 [www.clivesfruitfarm.co.uk](http://www.clivesfruitfarm.co.uk)

### Croome

There's more than meets the eye at Croome. A secret wartime airbase, now a visitor centre, it was once a hub of activity for thousands of people. The RAF Defford Museum tells the story of that time. Outside is the grandest of English landscapes, 'Capability' Brown's masterful first commission, with commanding views over the Malverns. The parkland was nearly lost, but is now great for walks and adventures with a surprise around every corner. At the heart of the park lies Croome Court, once home to the Earls of Coventry. The 6th Earl was an 18th century trend-setter, and today Croome follows his lead by using artists and craftspeople in the house to tell the story of its eclectic past in inventive ways, perfect for making new discoveries. T: 01905 371006  
[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/croome](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/croome)



Witley Court



Witley Court

## Witley Court

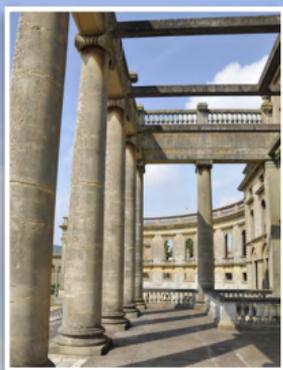
One of England's great country houses. Witley Court today is a spectacular ruin. The fountain has been restored and is fired regularly.

Great Witley T: 01299 896636 [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

## St Michaels & All Angels (Great Witley Church)

Known as Britain's finest baroque church, Great Witley Church has an interior with impressive decoration that is unusual among country churches.

Great Witley T: 01905 620488 [www.greatwitleychurch.org.uk](http://www.greatwitleychurch.org.uk)



Great Witley Church



Witley Court



## Leigh Court Barn

Largest Cruck structure in the UK, example of medieval architecture. [www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

## Little Malvern Court

Former Priors Hall and Gardens with Benedictine connections and magnificent views over the Severn Valley. The Berington family have lived here since the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539.

Little Malvern T: 01684 892988

## Little Malvern Priory (Our Lady & St Giles)

This was one of the smallest priories of the Benedictine order and only the tower and the choir remain intact. The remains of the stained glass in the east window contain the coats of arms of Edward IV and images of the royal family. It also contains carvings and floor tiles similar to Great Malvern Priory.

Little Malvern T: 01684 567439

[www.littlemalvernpriory.co.uk](http://www.littlemalvernpriory.co.uk)

## Lower Brockhampton

A medieval moated manor house situated on the Brockhampton estate of farm and woodland.

Greenfields, Bringsty T: 01885 482077

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/brockhampton-estate](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/brockhampton-estate)



## Picton National Michaelmas Daisy Collection

Part of the Old Court Nurseries, specialist growers with one of the largest collections of asters (Michaelmas daisies).

Colwall T: 01684 540416 [www.autumnmasters.co.uk](http://www.autumnmasters.co.uk)

## Three Counties Showground

Venue for many events throughout the year, the main shows being the RHS Malvern Spring Festival, Royal Three Counties Show and Malvern Autumn Show.

Corner of B4209 and B4208 between Malvern Wells and Hanley Swan T: 01684 584900 [www.threecounties.co.uk](http://www.threecounties.co.uk)



Three Counties Showground



## St Wulstan's Church

Sir Edward Elgar, his wife, Alice, and his daughter, Carice, are buried in the churchyard.

Little Malvern T: 01684 574658 [www.saint-wulstans.org.uk](http://www.saint-wulstans.org.uk)

## Music and Arts Festival

The Autumn in Malvern Festival is held annually during October and features high quality classical music, film, literature and visual art.

[www.malvernfestival.co.uk](http://www.malvernfestival.co.uk)

The Three Choirs Festival is held each year in August and the venue is rotated between Gloucester, Hereford and Worcester.

[www.3choirs.org](http://www.3choirs.org)

Upton upon Severn hosts many music festivals through the summer months including blues, folk and jazz.





## Useful Information

### Information & Advice

Malvern TIC, The Lyttelton Well Courtyard, 6 Church St.,  
Malvern, Worcs, WR14 2AY  
01684 892289

Library, Graham Road  
01905 822722

Post Office, Abbey Road  
01684 573003

Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB), 52 Prospect Close  
01684 563611

### Useful Websites

Tourist Information  
[www.visitthemaalverns.org](http://www.visitthemaalverns.org)

Malvern Hills Trust  
[www.malvern hills.org.uk](http://www.malvern hills.org.uk)

Bands in the Park  
[www.malverntowncouncil.org](http://www.malverntowncouncil.org)

Malvern Theatres  
[www.malvern-theatres.co.uk](http://www.malvern-theatres.co.uk)

Three Counties Showground  
[www.threecounties.co.uk](http://www.threecounties.co.uk)

Malvern Hills District Council  
[www.malvern hills.gov.uk](http://www.malvern hills.gov.uk)



## Medical & Emergency Services

Worcestershire Royal Hospital – A&E  
01905 763333

NHS 111  
111

Dental Helpline  
01905 760111

Police (non emergency number)  
101

Emergency – Police, Fire & Ambulance  
999

Malvern Community Hospital & Minor Injuries Unit  
01684 612600 (9am – 9pm)

## Chemist / Pharmacies

Boots the Chemist, Church Street  
01684 572905

Lygon Pharmacy, Worcester Road  
01684 561196

Malvern Pharmacy, Church Street  
01684 891082

# Malvern Tourist Information Centre

The Lyttelton Well Courtyard, 6 Church Street,  
Malvern, Worcs, WR14 2AY

Phone: 01684 892289

email: [Info@VisitTheMalverns.org](mailto:Info@VisitTheMalverns.org)

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

