

Malpas Community Links Parish Meeting 2019 Grant Award Feedback Report

Malpas “100 Years on” Project

Introduction:

Malpas Community Links was formed back in 2012 with the objective of supporting Clubs and social organisations in the village, of which some 70 exist.

MCL has a constitution, which will assist clubs and organisations to stage village events, and it was the organisation that underpinned the November 2018, Malpas “100 Years On” Project

Malpas “100 Years on” Feedback:

In my last 10 years of employment, I worked on around 70 BT major business improvement projects.

Some of you may be aware that for 7 years, I was event director for the Malpas Yesteryear Steam Rally and have also project managed a series of Mountain Bike Races across the Midlands for a further 7 years.

Of all these projects, can I say that this Malpas “100 Years On event”, was by far the most challenging of ventures I have ever undertaken.

The specially formed committee had been meeting for some 18 months making good progress on the project elements.

However at 1st September 2018, I was starting to panic slightly. We had no trench network, and no idea what we going to do by way of an historic artefacts display, which we had ourselves committed to.

The major challenge of the project was to find the right balance of staging an event that could recognise the sacrifices of people who lived during that traumatic period, commemorate the soldiers who lost their lives during the conflict, and at the same time capture the interests of our current residents.

However, by the numbers of residents that turned out and the complements received back from over 200 individuals, more than adequately illustrates that the event did manage strike the correct balance, contrary to the negative suggestions from one or two individuals.

We have also received “sincere thanks” for the invitations from our 3 prestigious guests of the Lord Lieutenant, the Chester Lord Mayor and our Constituency MP.

However, it was not all down to myself. I had a really fantastic Committee to work with. Thanks are really appropriate to them and their helpers. I am sure if I tried to mention everyone who contributed I would inevitable miss someone, but I do think it is worth mentioning the committee. These are:

Richard Hoffman:

Chairman of the group, who hosted numerous committee meetings to keep us on course.

David Brooks:

For the ceremonial salute.

Ian Davenport:

For organising the St Oswald's Church Services.

Janet Blake:

And her Malpas Flower Club members for their tireless hard work in decorating St Oswald's Church and the Cross with their magnificent poppy displays. This was also supported by the Royal British Legion officials Sharon King and Steve Le-Good

Mags Fraser:

For writing the drama and directing her band of talented actors for the 4 moving performances of "The Way We Were"

Rachael Reeves:

For leading on the arrangements for "The Armed Man" performance in St Oswald's Church, and for organising the period street parade.

Judy Anderson:

For parade assembly and management, and support of Mags Fraser with the drama plays

Jackie Clegg:

And her helpers for organising the displays and events on the Recreation Ground

Edward Reeves:

Supported by Robin Siddorn and John Proudlove in creating the representative World War One Trench Network on the Recreation Ground.

Angela Witter:

Who did a first class job on our publicity and communications; even achieving a 3 page spread on the event in the Cheshire Life Magazine.

Tony Ord:

For the historic period photographs.

Cathy Reynolds:

For trying to keep our budget expenditure under control.

Adrian Waddelove:

Supported by his family, Peter Vile and Helen Proudlove, in creating a hugely interesting military and domestic artefacts display in the High Street Church.

Parish Council support:

In addition, I would thank both Councillors John Webb and Adrian Waddelove for giving their help and expertise at the last moment, to manage elements of the event that the committee just didn't have any further capacity to do.

I do think their presence on this, clearly illustrated the Parish Council's role in leading on, or providing strong support for community events.

What did we do with the grant money?

Well with the true cost of the event being in the region of £13,000, the Parish Council contribution of £600 helped to fund some of our essential unavoidable costs, such as road closures, event insurance, security, publicity, marquee and toilet hire etc.

What next?

Well the committee are planning a re-dedication of the War Memorial in March 2020 with the names of our missing soldiers added; this time being 100 years after the original dedication.

May 2022 sees the 75th Anniversary of the end of World War Two, and my battered “never again” committee are actually suggesting we undertake some sort of village event to commemorate that occasion.

So on behalf of the Malpas 100 Years on Committee, I would thank the Parish Council for their contribution last year and would be grateful for any support they can give us next year.

Chris Whitehurst

Chair of Malpas Community Links

Secretary Malpas “100 Years On”

13th May 2019