

March 10th 2018 -

Chairman's Report

After 2 years as Chairman of the MVP, I am now stepping aside for a period since I think it is always important to refresh any leadership role and to take the chance to collect your thoughts in terms of where you should focus limited time and energies.

Over an enjoyable 2 year period, if I have a frustration, it is that given the very few people in our village that actually engage in making things happen, it is a major challenge just to stay still and maintain a status quo without actually moving things forward. In a corporate environment when you can call upon full time staff, it is so much easier to be ambitious, knowing that when work needs to be done people are paid to do it rather than asking people to take precious time out from their family and work commitments.

Notwithstanding that, over the period we have maintained a full calendar of events and supported our affiliate friends, provided both recreational and support activities for the community and we should not forget the vital role that our communications play, be that via our Newsletters, Notice boards, website or social media.... in just sharing information across the community.

The events over the past 12 months have been a lot of fun and well attended and include the May Ball as well as the annual big ticket events like the Fun Day and the Scarecrow Trail.

Last Xmas we worked closely with St Johns to help them with the Xmas Fair and Santa's Grotto which meant that funds would go to the school and we did not have conflicting events at that busy family time.

We have continued to support the tremendous Bags2school initiative, but we no longer take a share in the funds raised, with them now equally split between St Johns, St Marys and The Willink.

The Fun Day continues to provide enormous opportunities for local clubs, associations and charities to raise funds for their various projects and also provides local businesses a platform to raise their profile and smaller traders to sell their produce.

In remembering that the purpose of the MVP is not as a fund raising organisation, clearly we need to generate revenues just to fund the operating expenses of the MVP for things like Hall Hire, Newsletters, Insurances, Stationary etc. Much of these costs are covered by the enormously successful Scarecrow trail, but it is extremely pleasing that we have over the past 2 years contributed to the "infrastructure" of the village firstly with a donation of £2700 to the Parish Council towards the cost of establishing a permanent power supply to the Fairground, available to all Fairground hirers via the SMPC. We were delighted that this was completed in time for summer events on the Fairground and specifically was of enormous benefit for the MVP Fun Day as well as for the MML Music event on the same day.

And secondly you will remember that the MVP funded the supply and installation of the 3 defibrillator units in 2016.

Some things have been more complex than others, our attempt at gaining charitable status for the MVP last year, hit some road blocks as, indeed, did our plan to change our banking arrangements. Fortunately on further investigation neither of these things would appear to be necessary at this point in time.

We were able to launch the Mortimer Community Survey which has raised a few more questions in terms of what the MVP is for, who can or cannot be involved. We hoped that subject to numbers today we could take a slight change from our usual protocol and use this AGM just to look at a couple of fundamental questions about the MVP and Danusia will be picking this up in a moment and running with some of these issues in the coming year.

Looking ahead we also have a challenge moving forward to comply with General Data Protection Regulations or GDPR in 76 days time... this means we have to consider what data we can and cannot hold and question who is or is not a member of the MVP.... It creates an additional hurdle in recruiting volunteers for events etc. (if it wasn't tough enough already) since we will need to obtain permission to hold their contact details.

In finishing I would of course like to thank all of the MVP members for their continued time and energies and enthusiasm for "Everything Mortimer" and specifically to thank:

Natasha O'Brien who is stepping down from the role of Vice Chairman

Lynn Hannawin, who due to her new duties as Parish Clerk needs to relinquish her very long held role of MVP Secretary - we wish her every success in the future and I'm sure that all of us who know Lynn (which is half the village) will give her every support in her Village Duties.

Louise Strange – who stepped in temporarily as Treasurer last year and then to Ali Richardson who has taken the role over....

And lastly

Thank you to **Danusia Morsley** who has kindly offered to take another turn as MVP Chair which she will do alongside her ever growing responsibilities as full time busy Grandmother!

Doug Overett

MVP Chairman