

Mortimer Village Partnership

Newsletter

February 2014

All this and more available on our website
www.mortimervillage.org.uk



A Message from our Chairman

The success of MVP in 2013 manifested itself in a packed village calendar full of events including the Spring Clean, Sports Weekend, Scarecrow Trail, our Fun Day, and a number of ongoing activities including the Lunch Club, Theatre Trips and the Face Book Group. This coming year is no different, with old and new events bringing together the whole community. You can find the details in this newsletter or on the MVP website www.mortimervillage.org.uk Bring along some friends and show them what a vibrant place you live in.

If you are the kind of person who likes to make things happen and want to participate in village life, come along to one of our meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of the month in the Methodist Church side room from 7.30pm.

Julie Carter

Forthcoming MVP Events

15th February Shooting the Moon



MVP is thrilled to have been able to book the professional theatrical company Strangeface again. They are bringing us a new production – Shooting the Moon. Using masks, puppets, and projection they will tell the story of the life of George Méliès, one of the pioneers of the cinema industry. He invented the first special effects ever seen on film and techniques which are still used today. In a series of surreal and comic scenes, accompanied by a lively musical score, this talented company of actors will amaze, entrance and move us with a fantastical tale of illusion, film and fame. Don't miss this unusual theatrical opportunity on your doorstep!!!

7:30pm Sat 15th February
St. John's Hall, West End Rd
Tickets £9 adults, £6 ages 8 – 18
The doors and bar will open at 7 pm

from mvp@morsley.me.uk or
Danusia Morsley 9332620 or
Pete Blagden 9332546

12th March MVP AGM

Our regular March meeting at 7:30pm in the Methodist Church Hall side room will start with our AGM. We are looking for people to take on key roles within the MVP, and also for new committee members to take an active part in our work. Mortimer is thriving and fun; we need people to keep that going! So please do come along, meet us and get involved. Things only happen when people make them happen! Ask any MVP member listed on the back page for more information.

Could Mortimer be Greener?

MVP would especially like to revive our Green Group. Is there someone out there who would work with us to champion green issues? You needn't get involved in all the other work MVP does and you would get plenty of support from the rest of us. There are all sorts of ideas of what could be done and even some money earmarked for this - please contact any MVP member (listed on the back page) if this might be you.



17th March - Bag2School



You will receive a bag in time to put it out for collection on Monday 17th March. Bag2School collect clothing, bedding, soft toys, paired shoes, hats, belts and handbags for reuse- NO BRIC-A-BRAC PLEASE! Remember the money raised goes back into our community, shared between the two schools and MVP.

Further 2014 dates: Mon 23rd June and Mon 20th October

If you'd like to get involved and help either delivering bags or driving around helping with the roadside collection please email bag2school@annalytics.co.uk

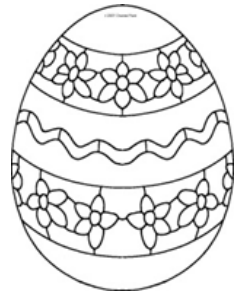
22nd March - Spring Clean Mortimer



As well as enjoying a busy, vibrant village we all want it to be a clean and tidy one! So combine an afternoon walk with a bit of litter-picking – come to the MVP gazebo in the Horse and Groom garden between 1 and 4 pm. We will provide litterpickers, gloves and bags and help you decide which bit of the village to do. We will take photos of the most useful and funniest objects found for the website and there may be a small prize for best of those!

19th April – Easter Egg Hunt

Another date for your diaries! There will be an Easter egg hunt this year in the village on Saturday 19th April. This is being organised by the committee of Mortimer Preschool in partnership with MVP. Please see the Fundraising page on the Preschool website for more details:
www.mortimerpreschool.org.uk



29th April - Heartstart



Over 75 people in the village have now completed a Heartstart course through MVP, learning basic first aid such as how deal with a collapsed person (including CPR) until the emergency services arrive.

The next opportunity to acquire those skills is at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday 29th April. The course is free, lasts about 2½ hours and takes place at the Scout Hut, Birch Lane. Ring Danusia Morsley on 9332620 or email mvp@morsley.me.uk to book your place or for further details.

10th May – MVP Ball

Mortimer Village Partnership May Ball
Saturday 10th May 2014
7pm – Midnight
Lincoln Room, DeVere Venues, Wokefield Park

As a thank you to our community for all the support MVP has received since its creation we have organised a social event for your enjoyment. Come with your friends and neighbours for a drink on arrival accompanied by live music by local musician Steve Grant, a three course meal with ½ bottle of wine, followed by a disco (70's/80's etc.) by Alec Burrell, ex member of the Spectators.

Tickets cost just £49.99 per person

For tickets and further details please email mayball@mortimervillage.org.uk or telephone 0118 9333408

Tickets are available from 1 February and are limited in number so book early to avoid disappointment.



This is purely a social event and not a fund raiser so you will NOT be asked for any contributions or to buy raffle tickets during the evening



17th & 18th May - MVP Sports Weekend

Plans are already underway for the 3rd Mortimer & Area Sports Weekend. Over the weekend of 17th and 18th May there will be a wide range of sports on offer for both children and adults. Obtain a "Sports Passport" from locations across Mortimer and Burghfield (after the Easter weekend) and you will be able to try a variety of sports and activities for free or for a small fee.



This year we are asking sports organisations if they'd also like to open their doors to Mortimer & Area Sports Passport holders during the week until Friday 23rd May. This way we hope that adults as well as children will be encouraged to try something new during the week if they're too busy transporting children around during the weekend!

We'll keep you updated on the MVP website and MVP Facebook page. If you have any sports that you'd particularly like to try, do contact us at mortimersportswweekend@gmail.com

5th July - Mortimer Fun Day

With a lot of new faces to help the Fun Day Committee, Mortimer is showing its support for the biggest event in the area; we are all now excitedly planning the sixth MORTIMER FUN DAY. It promises to be just as much fun and full of excitement as previously with exhilarating inflatable thrills, a packed entertaining arena schedule, new children's games and activities, yummy refreshments, live music and lots for everyone to do .



Mortimer Fairground from 10:30 a.m.

Don't miss it!

Sponsors: The MVP Fun day is an event run by the community for the community and we thank in advance all our local companies who support us so generously every year. If there are any new businesses that would like to be involved in sponsoring the Fun Day please contact Tracy Audsley via tracy.audsley@gmail.com



Local Clubs and Societies: the Fun Day represents a great opportunity to showcase your local club, organisation or Charity and raise awareness, gain new members or just the chance to participate in a great day. To discuss your participation or book a plot please contact danusia@morsley.me.uk

Market Row: We are already taking bookings for our Market Row which last year was the busiest yet, space is limited so please book early by contacting Juliecarter396@btinternet.com

Our village Fun Day could not run without the generous support of ... YOU! There are many things that every person in our community can do to contribute

Volunteers We can use any offer of any kind of help – we will need more than 100 extra people on the day. Running a stall or activity for a couple of hours, selling raffle tickets, manning the bar, serving teas, helping put up things on the Friday or take them down on Sunday - we can use everyone and every level of skill or muscle power!! If you can spare even one hour please contact Ali Sherlock Ali.Sherlock@Kronos.com. Put July 5th in your diary now.

Tombola and Raffle: Are you having a New Year clear out? Please remember the Fun Day tombola stall and raffle as they are two of MVP's main sources of income to pay for the Fun Day infrastructure. We always struggle to collect enough items for the tombola stall and raffle so consider us a useful outlet for any unwanted Christmas gifts or bits and bobs that have been taking up space in your cupboards. As long as it is as new, then anything goes but if you need an idea of what to donate here is the type of thing that has been given in previous years:

- Unwanted gifts including vouchers
- Knick-knacks in good condition
- Toiletries - single items or sets
- Tins, jars or bottles of food - use by date after July 2014, please
- Alcoholic or non-alcoholic drinks - use by date after July 2014, please
- As new books, games and puzzles
- Jewellery items and accessories - no pierced earrings for hygienic reasons
- Unused address, birthday books, stationery
- Anything else that you feel maybe suitable



Any donation, no matter how big or small, is always much appreciated. To arrange delivery or collection please call Rachel on 9331495 or email her at rachel_james34@yahoo.com Thank you in anticipation.



We will be putting regular information on www.mortimervillage.org.uk and on our Facebook page so keep an eye out from now on. We will be calling for cakes, tombola prizes, volunteers, crockery for the smashing stall etc. as well as keeping you posted on the attractions to expect!

Sunday 6th July – *The marquee and toilets will still be on the Fairground on the day after the Fun Day. These could be made available to a local organisation or for private use during the day or evening subject to a number of terms and conditions. Anyone interested contact Doug Overett doug.overett@gmail.com*

Recent Events

Scarecrow Trail Report



You'd have been forgiven for thinking you'd fallen into a fairytale world going about your business in Mortimer during the last Autumn half term holiday.

"Have you seen 'There Was an Old Lady'?", "You have to see 'Humpty!'" was the sort of thing you'd have overheard from the eclectic groups of map-wielding trailers. Yes, despite the awful weather, the annual Mortimer Scarecrow Trail went into full operation once again. This trail saw 35 scarecrows being presented all around the village creating a recreational walk that took 3-4 hours to complete, and all for the price of a £1 map! Almost 800 maps were sold bringing an estimated 2,500 trailers around our village, both local residents and from further afield. As the video available through the MVP website shows there were happy, smiling faces everywhere. As ever, each scarecrow was unique with its own, individual characteristics making for an enjoyable and varied trail. Trail followers were faced with an almost impossible decision as to know who to vote for as overall winners of the three categories but congratulations to the final three: Dr Foster; Humpty Dumpty and Little Miss Muffet.

We'd like to thank all the scarecrow builders for their fabulous creations; all the trailers for their commitment in such weather; Spratley's and Parkers for once again sponsoring the event; Budgens, Dads Shop and McColls for selling the maps and Mortimer Library, IDS and Nigel Millard for their support.

Watch this space for further details because the 2014 trail will be upon us before we know it!

Christmas Market & Santa's Grotto Report

Ho, Ho, Ho, Merry Christmas! were Santa's last words as we saw him mounting his sleigh on top of the Methodist Hall in Mortimer on 7th December. Over 70 children visited Santa in his magical grotto, whispering their wish lists with quiet hopefulness. While visitors sipped mulled fruit spice and tasted delicious cakes made by local volunteers, shoppers were able to browse the various stalls in the Christmas Market. Mortimer 1st BP Scouts had a flowing stream of visitors to their soft toy raffle, handing out cuddly toys to children of all ages; one young child's reaction will remain with us for years to come, not old enough yet to speak but the smile on his face said everything!



Pantomime Report

Those passing by St Johns Hall on the afternoon of 21st December, may have wondered what the shouts of "SOGGY BOTTOM" echoing the streets of Mortimer were all about. The enthusiastic yelling (the loudest of which came from the adults!) was aimed at five Londoners in fancy dress (and a very large cat named Tommy) who took to the stage to put on a production of Dick Whittington for 100 willing and noisy audience members. The two hour performance by Pyramid Productions was greatly received by all who attended – from the children through to the young at heart....and certainly left everyone feeling that little bit more Christmassy. Due to the positive feedback, this will become a regular date for the Christmas diary – OH YES IT WILL.....we look forward to seeing more of you there next year.



Community Carols Report

As usual, Together in Mission (TiM) organised carol singing on the Fairground on 14th December, at the invitation of Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council. It was a true community event with local musicians performing brilliantly, ably conducted by Jo Paterson-Neild. We sang a mixture of traditional and modern carols, interspersed with poems and scripture readings.



The event was well supported by 80-100 folk. TiM is grateful to, among others John Bull, Richard Coles, and many other volunteer helpers. The Horse & Groom were on hand with drinks and a BBQ.

MVP Lunch Club

MVP Lunch Club continues to go from strength to strength. We have a wonderful team of volunteers who serve at tables and generally do all the hard work that is necessary to run the event twice a month.



We are now looking for people who would love to come along and just chat!

Yes, just chat with the people that come to our club over a bowl of soup once or twice a month as suits you. If you would like to enrich your own life by getting to know the wonderful people that come to our lunch club please contact Rebecca Barker at rbarkerdg@sky.com or 9332008. We meet on the second and last Thursday of the month over the lunch period.

Clubs, Charities and Other Local Things

TiM Friends

To date we have 30 volunteers and 16 older folks, who have contacted us after picking up a leaflet, or a family/friend or professional agencies has got in touch. Volunteers have approached us, having seen articles in Village Eye and village newsletters, or because they volunteer in the community already.

Bev and I are advertising the service by leaflet drops, posters and other local publicity. We are constantly making new links with other agencies, such as doctors, District Nurses, hairdressers etc. Where possible, we sign-post clients to other activities in the area.



We have recently set up a Pie & Pint club which runs monthly for men and is already proving popular. We are currently organising a Tea Dance to be held in January for TiM Friends & their volunteers, which will include food, a raffle and entertainment.

Sian Laflin & Bev French (Coordinators)

Contact 0778 911184 for Mortimer area; 07778 911183 for Burghfield area

Willink School Pastors

The project has completed its first full term and it has been great getting to know some of the students and staff. There have been lots of high fives, an invitation to take part in after school footie (accepted), and some good conversations. The Years 7s and 8s still think we are cool; older students know we are not, but are still friendly. Some may consider us odd but don't voice it, or at least not in earshot! It will, of course, take a much longer time to make real relationships of trust and friendship. But we like the Willink!

Brenda Baldwin (Senior School Pastor)

Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service (RBFRS)

The RBFRS would like to reach more elderly and vulnerable local residents to give them advice in their homes regarding the prevention of fire-related accidents. They would be pleased to visit people at home and give information including leaflets and to fit FREE Fire& Smoke alarms if needed. If any **one** of the following applies to you ring **0800 587 6679** to arrange a free home visit.



Fire and Burn Prevention

- You are over 70 years of age
- You have any mobility issues
- You receive any assistance in your home from external agencies
- You have a visual or auditory impairment

Please pass on this information to friends or neighbours who could benefit.

Can You Help the Air Ambulance?

The Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance is in need of people in our area to manage their collection boxes. You can do it when suits you, reclaim any travel expenses and be part of a strong team of dedicated air ambulance volunteers. Full training and support provided. For more information please call Katie on 0300 999 0135 or email katies@tvacaa.org



Mortimer 2012 WI

Mortimer 2012 WI is a recently formed Women's Institute with a modern outlook. We meet at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of the month at the Community Centre, Mortimer (opposite the Horse and Groom)

Shaped by our members, Mortimer 2012 WI is open to the ideas of its membership. If there is a craft members want to try, or a passion a member wants to pass on via a group, we support and encourage this

At our meetings: Interesting speakers on a diverse range of topics. Get to know other women in Mortimer

Be part of something bigger: discuss the things that matter to you and your family and influence the national debate

Join Mortimer 2012 WI and be part of our affiliated groups such as the Walking Group, Book Group and Theatre Group

Is the WI for me?

Be our guest at up to two meetings before you join

For more information contact

marjorie.mcclure@hotmail.co.uk

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Mortimer and District Flower Circle

Do you love flowers and gardening? Then come along to our friendly club, relax and watch Flower Arranging Demonstrations by qualified NAFAS (National Association of Flower Arrangers) Demonstrators

Monthly on the 2nd Monday of each month

St John's Hall Mortimer

Doors open at 7:15pm

Entry free for members

Visitors are always welcome

All of the arrangements are raffled at the end of the evening

Our 2014 programme begins on Monday 10th March, but if you would like more information contact mortimerflowercircle@gmail.com



MORTIMERMUSIC live.

Mortimer Music Live announces its first event of the 2014 season:

- Who: **The Jason Hendrix Experience**, who performed to wide acclaim at our summer music festival.
with support from popular ex-Willink singer **Ailsa Hutchison**.
- Where: **The Willink School Hall**, Hollybush Lane (leisure centre entrance), Burghfield Common RG7 3XJ
- When: **Saturday 8th February**. Doors open at **7.30pm**
- Tickets: £8 (adults) and £5 (under 18) from Dad's Shop, Budgens, Triangle Travel, Horse and Groom, The Fruit Shop and www.mortimermusiclive.co.uk Special offer under 18 tickets at £4 from Willink Leisure Centre (only).
licenced bar.

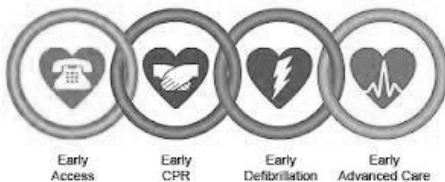
Mortimer Music Live is a not for profit
Mortimer Village Partnership Affiliated Group.



Mortimer & Burghfield Community First Responders

It has been another busy year for the Mortimer & Burghfield Community First Responders. We have had around 300 emergency 999 call-outs in 2013 of which over 250 were attended in our brand new 4 X 4 Ford Kuga Rapid Response Vehicle.

The car was launched at Wokefield Park in January 2013 and has travelled around 5000 miles in its first year. While most of its operations supported South Central Ambulance Service, some also involved the Thames Valley Air Ambulance; there have been successful resuscitations involving all services.



As a result of the Mortimer Fun Day, MVP, have generously been able to fund us to provide Entonox Pain Relief for patients experiencing trauma or limb pain. Only a handful of Responder Schemes in Berkshire are able to do this and we are indebted to MVP for their support

In mid-2013 our sole Mortimer Responder had to resign; we thanked her for her voluntary service. The GOOD NEWS is that we have recruited 2 new

Responders who have their own mobile kit called CF068 and they are now based in Mortimer.

The new 111 service combined with the existing 999 call handling has seen calls across the region increase to just under 1 million per year on a South Central Service population of 4 million. That means, on average 1 in 4 residents could have a medical or out of hours emergency each year. This is why the local voluntary community responders have never been more vital but thanks to MVP, they are kept well equipped and ready to respond!

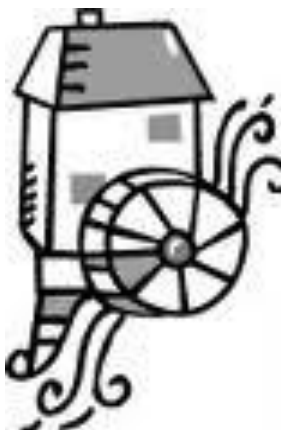


Mortimer Past and Present

The rain and ensuing floods have brought local waterways to our attention. Once upon a time they were vital parts of our economy and local life.



Flooding from the Kennet and Avon Canal affected many of our driving routes to the A4 in recent weeks but for many years it was a great improvement to transport. It was built to connect two stretches of navigable river to make a route from Bristol to the Thames at Reading and on to London. The work was done between 1794 and 1810. When it was completed the cost of carriage by canal boat for 1 ton of goods from London to Bath became £2 9s 6d as opposed between £6 and £7 by road. In 1832 more than 300,000 tons of freight was being carried yearly. Now it is largely used for leisure pursuits.



Have you ever looked at a map of Mortimer and wondered why the Foudry Brook is typically wiggly apart from one dead straight 900 metre section? It is an artificial channel or leet created to provide the good head of water that would have been needed to drive the watermill that once stood very close to where Ladyfield House is now. The mill is mentioned in the Domesday Book, was still working in 1304 but was derelict by 1426. That straight section was probably dug out in Saxon times.

We don't know the population of Mortimer in Saxon times but it must have been tiny compared with today's; what a huge undertaking the digging of the leet must have been. You can read more about Mortimer mysteries as written by Mortimer Local History Group at <http://www.mortimervillage.org.uk/assets/History/Mysteries.pdf>

Mortimer Village Communications



Find us on:
facebook®

Our Mortimer Village Partnership Facebook group is proving a very popular method of communication. We now have nearly 700 members who join in the lively exchange of useful local information. More

members welcome – it is a closed group (which just means you have to apply to join) and we have two administrators doing a splendid job of making sure all the posts adhere to the aims of the group.

Recommendations for local sources of all kinds of things that are posted are collected in a file for people to look up. During the recent period of bad weather many people posted up to the minute information about the state of local roads. Several lost dogs and other items have been reunited with their owners via this group. Can it help you?



Volunteers to help with MVP newsletter delivery always needed – please contact Pete Blagden 9332546. Volunteers to deliver in Wokefield, Mortimer West End, and Beech Hill most welcome as well as Mortimer itself.

MVP Contact Details

Chairman	Julie Carter juliecarter396@btinternet.com 9332265
Vice-chairman	Danusia Morsley danusia@morsley.me.uk 9332620
Secretary	Lynn Hannawin lynn@i-next.co.uk 9332577
Treasurer	Rebecca Barker bbarkerdg@sky.com 9332008
Affiliates Secretary	Michelle Goulding m.goulding@sky.com 9333945
Committee members	Doug Overett doug.overett@tiscali.co.uk 9333285
who can also be contacted for further information include	Olivia Arthur oa.arthur@gmail.com
	Pete Blagden pete.blagden@btinternet.com 9332546
	John Bull spectrumpm@btinternet.com 9333741
	Austin Colaço mangyaustin@gmail.com 9332697
	John Foley johnfoley@vellinder.co.uk 9333420
	Jacqueline Grant jaqsgrant@btinternet.com 9333408
	Brian Baldwin brianbrendabaldwin@talk21.com 9332569

There are also other people who regularly work with MVP on particular projects like the website, Facebook page, looking after our equipment or helping organise one of our annual events.

General enquiries can also be made via www.mortimervillage.org.uk

We are still receiving help from Greenham Common Trust for which we are very grateful; they contribute half the cost of printing of this newsletter which is delivered free of charge to 2000 households.

