

Mortimer Village Partnership



Mortimer Village Partnership
Enriching Village Life

Newsletter

October 2014

*All this and more available
on our website*

www.mortimervillage.org.uk



**The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service**

MVP has a New Logo!

Mortimer Village Partnership is delighted to announce the launch of our new logo which reflects the coming of age of the MVP, recognised by the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. MVP has now been existence for five years and this seems the right time to refresh our image.

The new logo has been designed by Richard Crowther working with the MVP Committee and seeks to retain elements of the original logo, the winning design from a competition, reflecting still the familiar blue circle and taking the tree and people elements into a stylised graphic.

It is hoped that the new logo, which now specifically shows "MVP", as Mortimer Village Partnership has become known, will improve people's recognition of the many MVP activities and events throughout the year.

The logo will be easier to reproduce and is scalable to create real impact when enlarged on posters and, unlike the current logo, it will benefit from not losing the key elements when reduced.

We think the new strap line *Enriching Village Life* reflects the objectives of the MVP, not only in the activities directly run by MVP, but also through our support for the many clubs and organisations that contribute to vibrant village life.

We hope that you will notice the new logo on many communications and of course in recognising all the different activities arranged by MVP, become interested in joining us to continue building our award-winning community.

Mortimer Village Partnership Badge

In recognition of the voluntary work by so many people through MVP which contributed to our Queen's Award, MVP will be awarding its own MVP badges. We have a big backlog of special people to honour in this way so it will take us a little while to catch up with all those who deserve it. The badge will look like this picture, but in colour, and the names of recipients will be recorded in a special book. The first presentations will take place on 2nd November as part of the ceremony concluding the Scarecrow Trail (details below).



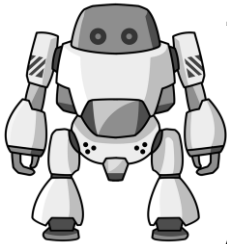
Forthcoming MVP Events

Bag2school...

...is here again. You will have received a bag to fill with unwanted clothes, shoes, handbags (no bricabrac, towels or bedding) with this newsletter. And we will be coming to pick it up outside your house on Monday 20th October. Clear out your wardrobe and benefit both schools and MVP



A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away.....



.... well actually here in Mortimer, over the autumn half term, from **Saturday 25th October to Sunday 2nd November** the Scarecrow Trail will be taking place. This year's theme is science fiction and fantasy and the scarecrows will be on show daily from 9am to dusk each day. The trail finishes at 4pm on Sunday 2nd November.

As in previous years it will be an excellent way of keeping the kids – both big and small alike – entertained during the half term week. Trail followers will be able to vote for their favourite scarecrow in each one of the three winning categories: children's favourite; adults' favourite and funniest. There will also be the traditional trail competition for trail followers to complete for a chance to win £50.00! And if you want to be among the first to know who the Scarecrow Trail 2014 winners are, then come along to the Community Centre, from 6 to 6:30pm, on Sunday 2nd November.

Trail maps will be available from Budgens and Dad's Shop from Wednesday 22nd October and will cost just £1. New for this year and with thanks to Budgens, each trail map will contain a £1 voucher that can be exchanged for certain products in Budgens, Mortimer branch.

You can also now find us on Facebook - Mortimer Scarecrow Trail – where we look forward to reading your Scarecrow Trail comments and seeing your photos!



Go on, follow the Scarecrow Trail and join in the fun!

Santa's Grotto & Children's Activities

MVP is very excited to inform you that once again Santa will be making a special trip to Mortimer to visit the local children. He will be in his Grotto in St. John's Hall from 12:00 noon until 5:00 p.m. on **Saturday 13th December**.



Santa's elves are also organising art and craft activities for the children (run by local groups) and there will be yummy refreshments for sale. Last year Santa's slots sold out fast, so be sure to keep your eye on MVP's website, Facebook page and noticeboards for more information. Tickets will go on sale from Monday 3rd November.



Saturday 20th Dec – MVP Pantomime



MVP has rubbed the Genie's magic lamp and been granted 3 wishes.....

- ❖ Pyramid Productions Panto are coming back to the village by popular demand to bring us **ALADDIN**
- ❖ There will be two performances this year: 1pm and 3:30pm in St. John's Hall
- ❖ The genie has given us a *SPECIAL EARLY BIRD PROMOTION*;

book in October for a price freeze at 2013 prices (Adult £9, Child £6). From November, the price will be; Adult £10.50, Child £7.50. Early bird tickets will be available to buy from Monday 13th October. For further information and/or to buy tickets, please call Lynn on 9332577 or email lynn@i-next.co.uk.

Sunday 1st February – It's a Wonderful World

MVP has booked Farnham Maltings travelling theatre to come to Mortimer St. John's Hall at 7:30pm for a professional performance of *It's a Wonderful World*.



In case you don't remember the classic Frank Capra movie version, George Bailey, a desperate middle-aged clerk discovers the difference he has made to his family, his friends and his home town (with a little help from Clarence, the apprentice angel). Using their own, inimitable style, the company has created two hours of theatre that promise to warm the coldest of places through the long winter nights. Look out for posters, MVP Facebook and website with details of tickets from early December.

Recent Events

Now more than 2 months have passed since the 2014 Mortimer Fun Day, that sunny (well mostly), great day seems a long time ago. Without doubt this year the event was bigger than ever and feedback from Facebook, emails, telephone calls and chats with neighbours would suggest the event was again an enormous success and enjoyed by everyone.

**MORTIMER
FUN DAY**



We estimate that our Fun Day attracted more than 4000 people and easily delivered our core goal of providing an affordable day out for families from Mortimer and the surrounding area. Entrance was free and entertainment included all the usual favourites but with new activities for younger children, great arena events...who will forget the Reading Pipe Band marching into the arena... the classic cars, a great market row and of course the excellent food and drink from the MVP Bar and Refreshment Tent.

Sponsors including De Vere Venues, Unique Outdoors, Budgens, Spratleys, Dara Portraits, Triangle Travel, CTS Transport, Digifocus, Mortimer Pet shop, Calor, Mortimer Post Office and Davis Tate were very generous. We are sure everyone appreciates that the cost of marquee hire, activities, insurances, arena attractions are considerable and the sponsors' support ensures that we can balance the books!

We never get a chance to thank everybody personally for their help and support, both in the run up to the event and on the day..... You all know who you are....Thank you so much.

Guess what? **Fun Day 2015** is on **July 4th**.....but more about that later.

BBC Berkshire visits Mortimer

On Tuesday 19th August BBC Radio Berkshire's Suzanne Courtney made an outside broadcast from Mortimer during the breakfast show. Passers-by and voluntary groups stopped to discuss "what they love about Mortimer". Topics included the wide variety of events here, the seemingly infinite range of stock in Dad's Shop and the growing popularity of the Tuesday health walk. There was also an insight into life on board Radio London (Big L), one of the "boats that rocked" beaming all day pop to the UK from ships off our coast in the 1960s. It turns out the station's administrator lives and works in Mortimer! If you missed this snapshot into village life you can hear it at <http://goo.gl/8hBvWl>

MVP Affiliates

MVP support for local groups...

Do you belong to a local interest/activity group? MVP has a wide range of affiliated local groups. Could your organisation benefit from becoming an Affiliate?

MVP aims to promote cooperation and communication between organisations and raise awareness of these groups in the village. The advantage of becoming an affiliate means that your group can benefit from increased publicity through this newsletter, our Facebook page, the MVP village web site, our calendar and notice board outside Budgens. You can also raise awareness of your organisation by becoming our 'club of the month', particularly useful if



you have a specific event you would like to promote. Use of the MVP logo with your publicity is also permitted. We support affiliates by providing low cost photocopying and laminating as well as lending equipment. We have built up a wide range of very useful equipment over the years, from marquees, gazebos, bunting, a flip chart, a money counting machine, to fencing pins, display boards, 2 way radios...

So if you can see your organisation benefiting from becoming an affiliate please contact our Affiliates Secretary, Julie Carter on 07767 266970 or juliecarter396@btinternet.com

Our current list of affiliates for 2014:

Mortimer W.I., Mortimer Tennis Club, Mortimer Dramatic Society, RNLI, Mortimer Local History Group, Mortimer Gardening Club, 1st Mortimer BP Scouts, Mortimer Music Live, Mortimer Book Club, Mortimer Toddlers, Mortimer Film Club, 1st Mortimer Brownies, Mortimer West End Village Hall, Burghfield Camera Club, Mortimer & District Flower Circle, Mortimer Netball Club, Mortimer Bellringers, Willink School PTA, Mortimer St Marys PTA

Mortimer and District Branch of the RNLI News



This year we have raised over £300 from our book clearance sale in March and £1160 from the Plant sale in May. Our Christmas Fair this year is on November 22nd

Mortimer 2012 WI

On Wednesday November 19th Mortimer 2012 W.I. are holding an Afternoon Tea and Sale of Crafts at the Community Hall between 2 and 4pm. Crafts will include knitted and sewn items and cards. All are welcome to this event. We look forward to seeing you there.



Burghfield Camera Club

Do you enjoy taking photographs, but need a challenge to encourage you or support to improve? Visit us to see how we can help, or come and share your knowledge with us! We are a small friendly club of like-minded people who welcome new members and visitors - come along for a free visit. We range from beginners to advanced photographers and run workshops at all levels to help you improve, deal with problems or learn new skills.



We meet at St. Oswald's Church Hall, Burghfield Common at 7:45pm on Thursdays. Our varied program includes speakers on Taking Control of your Camera, Digital Projected Images, workshops on Night Photography, Portraiture and Editing as well as a Christmas social evening with a guest speaker and a number of competitions. For a full program please visit our website at <http://www.burghfieldcameraclub.co.uk/> or just come along on a Thursday evening or email debbybcc@gmail.com ; you can also find us on Facebook at Burghfield Camera Club

Mortimer West End Village Hall

Mortimer West End Village Hall has a number of exciting events planned. Come along and join us for:

QUIZ NIGHT Saturday 11th October 7:30pm

Can your team beat last year's winners "The Usual Suspects"? Tickets £8.50 including ploughman's supper. Bring your own drinks and snacks.

VILLAGE SUPPER Saturday 24th January 2015 7:30pm

Beat those winter blues with a delicious home-cooked three-course meal. Tickets £10

For further information or to reserve tickets please contact:

Beryl Donnelly - 9332913 or Virginia Bray - virginia.bray@gmail.com

News from 1st Mortimer BP Cubs

Another successful year was completed by our summer camp at Rushall Farm where cubs tried their hands at orienteering and outdoor cooking with traditional campfire singing in the evening. Earlier in May, an area camp at the PACCAR camp site near Gerrards Cross was very popular giving the cubs the opportunity to meet other groups and renew friendships made last year when we hosted an area badge weekend.



Autumn term started on 9th September; we have a busy programme lined up including hosting another badge weekend in the Autumn and a Christmas camp under cover (we are fortunate to have our own Scout HQ in Mortimer ideally suited for these types of event). Cubs meet on Tuesday at 7pm - new boys or girls are welcome to visit. (Cubs is for children between 7 and 10). Contact Bagheera on 9332620 for further details.

Mortimer Gardening Club

Our club has about 30 members and meets at the community hall on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Most of us are not expert gardeners but just a friendly group who enjoy their gardens; we are always pleased to welcome new members.



We have had a variety of excellent speakers so far this year plus our regular in-house competition and a super BBQ. Throughout the year we also have visits to gardens of interest including RHS gardens and NGS gardens. Our next two meetings are:

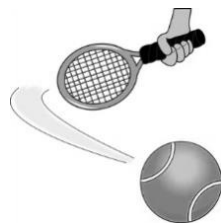
22nd October - Peter Harms: Audio visual presentations on varied topics.

26th November - Dr Alick Jones : Weeds - can we ever win?

We do not hold a December meeting but have a get together in January at the Horse & Groom in Mortimer. You do not have to be a member; why not come along as a visitor and see what you think? All the meetings are posted on the notice boards in Mortimer or you can contact Denise or John on 9333040.

Mortimer Tennis Club

Mortimer Tennis Club has about 50 members of all ages and ability. At the heart of the club are the social tennis evenings, held at Mortimer Tennis Club (Mortimer Fairground), on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 6 - 9pm. This autumn the tennis courts are being resurfaced and a shelter installed. The club is currently using the courts at Pamber Heath as a stop-gap.



The club has a strong social side: monthly pub quiz, annual weekend coaching in the New Forest, spring and autumn picnic, friendly (but competitive) club tournament, end of year dinner, prize-giving evening. Links to our facebook page & local coaching arrangements are at www.mortimertennisclub.com

We also enter teams into the Basingstoke & Hampshire Tennis League and are currently running 6 teams, (2 Ladies, 2 Mens and 2 Mixed). Club members are welcome to take part but there is an additional match fee of £2.

Memberships to the club are - Junior members/full time students up to 21 £10, One adult £40, Couples £70, Family £75. Contact the Treasurer Andrew Richardson on 9333256, 7 St Mary's Road, Mortimer, RG7 3UE or andrew.richardson@nbki.com . For any other information please contact the secretary, Mrs Belinda Chaplin at bechaplin1@gmail.com (07729180784).

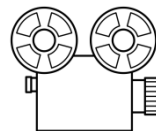
Mortimer Dramatic Society

Our next production is Deathtrap by Ira Levin.
Performances are Fri. & Sat. 17th, 18th & 24th, 25th October
(Doors Open 7pm, Fully Licenced Bar, Curtain at 7:45pm)
in St. John's Hall. Tickets £9; Box Office opens Mon. 29th
September - Peggy Hood 9332583.



The play is a five character, two act thriller/dark comedy so perfect in its construction that, as Sidney, the main protagonist, says, "a gifted director couldn't even hurt it." Using his penchant for plot and out of his desperate desire to once again be the toast of The West End, Sidney, along with Myra, his wife, cooks up an almost unthinkable scheme...

They'll lure the would-be playwright to their home, kill him, and market the sure-fire script as Sidney's own. Shortly after Clifford arrives, it's clear that things are not what they seem! Indeed, even Helga Ten Dorp, a nosey psychic from next door and Porter Milgram, Sidney's observant lawyer, can only speculate where the line between truth and deception lies.



Mortimer Film Club

We show films at the Community Centre at 7:30pm on the 3rd Weds of the month; our next films include: Wadjda, Locke, The Ladykillers, Benda Balili and the Lunchbox. Visitors always welcome. Contact us on mortimerfilmclub@hotmail.co.uk , 07583380484, 9331853 or see http://www.mortimervillage.org.uk/modules/calendar_events/filmclub.htm

Mortimer Toddlers

Mortimer Toddlers runs from 9:30-11:30am every Tuesday in the Community Centre. Do come early after the school run to help set up. We welcome all parents, grandparents, child minders, nannies and anyone else with children under 5. Come along if you are pregnant and meet new mums. We have a baby area with play mats, bouncy chairs and toys, lots of ride on toys and an art and craft table. We rotate the toys so there is always something to keep the children busy.



Snack time is at 10:30am with unlimited tea, coffee and biscuits for adults. There is usually singing at the end of the session. Toddler group is run by Louise Bone and Helen Murphy with help from many others. Please call/text 078 11 44 2049 or email lousedoe@gmail.com with any questions.

MORTIMERMUSIC live.

Buoyed by positive feedback from last year's inaugural Music Festival, Mortimer Music Live's small band of volunteers wanted to deliver an event for 2014. We teamed up with MVP to present *Planet Abba* on the evening of the Fun Day. The band was authentic and engaging, as the sight of over 400 people dancing and singing testify. We were delighted at positive comments both on the night and around the village afterwards. Tell us what you'd like to see at next year's July event. Please email mortimermusiclive@gmail.com, leave a message on 07446 23239, or complete our survey at www.facebook.com/mortimermusiclive.



Following last year's sell-out Classical Guitar event, Paul and Julie Spratley offered to host it again on September 6th at their car dealership *Spratley's of Mortimer*. The event featured Steve Grant, Rebecca Garcia, Sammy Millard and Amy Jewell playing a varied repertoire of traditional and contemporary solos and duets. All proceeds go to The Brain Tumour Charity. Check our web site/facebook page for the amount raised.

Our next event is the popular *Open Mic Night* at The Horse and Groom, The Street on **Saturday October 18th** from 7:30pm. Musicians of all types are welcome – just turn up. Amplification will be provided.

Mortimer Local History Group

This group was set-up over 30 years ago to research, record and collate the history of the area. We are always pleased to receive any information, whether a document, picture or reminiscences. Monthly formal meetings are held in the Methodist Church on the 3rd Thursday of the month, at 8:00 p.m. Our programme for the next 3 months is: -

16th Oct - The History of the Kent Family: The Kents are well represented in Mortimer from the middle of the 15th century. How much can we discover about their lives? Where are they now?

20th Nov- Derek Seward tells us about his family's connections with Mortimer
18th Dec - Photographs from the Past: We have some new pictures which have now been scanned. The evening will be spent identifying the events and some of the Mortimer residents shown in the photos.

Visitors always welcome. Further information from June Woodward 9332819 or Janet: munsonsinmortimer@yahoo.co.uk or Carolyn cojackdaw@aol.com

Other Local Clubs, Charities and News

Mortimer Art Show

The Mortimer Art Show will take place on **Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd November** from 10am to 4pm in St. John's Hall, West End Road, Mortimer Common. Local artists will be displaying their work which encompasses many styles and various media. We hope to also have cards and unframed paintings.

A warm and friendly welcome awaits our visitors and we hope that they will vote for their favourite painting. The winning artist will receive a small prize. There will be a raffle and all proceeds from the Art Show will be donated to local charities.



Background music, some of which will be live, enhances the relaxed atmosphere, so come along and browse or buy! Admission is FREE

A small plea - we would be very grateful if anyone who is fit and strong could spare around half an hour to help us erect the display screens on Friday 31st October from 1 pm - phone 9332008 please.

Burghfield, Mortimer & District Foodbank



The Food bank continues to support individuals and families in our local community who are struggling financially. Last Christmas, with help from Burghfield Residents' Association and Mortimer Methodist Church (who gave new or nearly new toys donated via their annual Toy Service) Christmas parcels of Food and Toys were given out to all those who had received help from the Food Bank in November and December. We also gave away one donated family-sized turkey. We hope to do the same this year...but more!

So, as temperatures drop and Christmas approaches, when you visit Budgens or any local supermarket, please buy a little extra and drop it off. Food collection boxes are in all local Churches, in Mortimer Post Office and in Burghfield and Mortimer libraries. We will be collecting Christmas food items from the beginning of December.

Normally, a food parcel will contain: Tinned: soup, vegetables, tomatoes, baked beans, meat, fish, fruit, and puddings. Milk (UHT), fruit juice, tea bags, hot chocolate and squash. Pasta, rice, sugar, breakfast cereals, biscuits, pasta sauces, toothbrushes/toothpaste, deodorant, soap and loo rolls. Following our

flood problems earlier in the year, we are unable to give out fresh food routinely but soon expect to be able to do so again.

The Burghfield Mortimer and District Food Bank can be contacted via 07770 56 56 25 or allanmeakin@hotmail.co.uk

Together in Mission (TiM)

Mortimer Christmas Tree

This year the tree on the Fairground near the Community Centre will be organised by the Parish Council. TiM has been invited to arrange the Community Carol Singing, on **Saturday 13th December** at 6pm. As in previous years we will have a band of local musicians and will sing favourite carols for all ages. Any musicians who would like to take part should contact Brian Baldwin via info@togetherinmission.org.uk.



Mortimer Christmas Tree Lighting Service

The tree lights and star will be switched on following the Advent Service at Mortimer St John's Church on **Sunday 30th November** at 7pm (Church Service 6 – 6:45pm).



Café B, Reading Road, Burghfield Common

TiM is pleased to announce that Emma Shumsky has been appointed as Manager of Café B and she started in September. The Café opened this year during August for the first time and continued to serve customers during the summer holidays. We are always looking for volunteers for the regular Monday and Wednesday morning slots, and thinking ahead, possibly for a Friday afternoon session after school! If you could help please contact emma@cafeb.org.uk. Watch and like www.facebook.com/CommunityCafeB for new info.



Christmas Carols at Café B, Reading Road, Burghfield Common

Please keep an eye on www.facebook.com/CommunityCafeB or on the TiM-CAN TV Service in Café B for news of Pop-up Carol Singing in the Café nearer Christmas!

Find out more about TiM and our activities at www.togetherinmission.org.uk

Thrive

Come and do your Christmas shopping in lovely surroundings this December and help a local charity. Thrive in Beech Hill uses gardening to help people with disabilities, ill-health, or who are isolated, disadvantaged or vulnerable and is holding two shopping events where you can enjoy some festive bonhomie and buy delightful crafty or foodie gifts for your loved ones.



Late-night shopping will be on Thursday 4th December from 6 - 8:30pm. There will be lots of local craft stalls as well as a chance to buy Thrive's own merchandise including Christmas cards, decorations, hyacinths, festive wreaths and table decorations. The licensed bar will sell mulled wine and other drinks along with festive nibbles. The Christmas shopping experience will be repeated on Friday 5th December from 10am with coffee and cakes.

Christmas cards can be bought from the website www.thrive.org.uk and if you'd like to pre-order your Christmas wreath, please contact us on 988 5688 to place your order. Wreaths are all one size and cost £18.

On Saturday 13th December Thrive will be the beneficiary of the collection taken at Reading Phoenix Choir's fabulous Christmas Carol Concert at Reading Minster. Entrance to this wonderful event is free.

Mortimer Past and Present

This year the start of World War 1 has been remembered around the country. Dipping into the book *Mortimer Through the Ages* written by Mortimer Local History Group in 1994 tells us something about how the village was affected. The Men's Club in the Street (now longer there – it was on the corner of Blewburton Close) was turned into a

convalescent home run by the Red Cross. Several other large houses including Stanmore in West End Road and Chatwood at Wokefield Green became homes for recovering servicemen.

More recent research shows that 72 men from the Mortimer area died during World War 1 directly as a result of fighting for their country in different parts of the world. This has been estimated to represent 25% of the active and productive men of the village. That is a higher percentage than the average for the whole country but some villages are known to have lost all their men of fighting age.

WW1 is also remembered in the name of Camp Road. Timber was needed for the war effort and felling in the pine woods stretching from Mortimer Common, through Burghfield, Ufton and Padworth was done by the Canadian Forestry Corps, mostly professional lumberjacks; their camp was just outside Mortimer.

You can read more about the history of Mortimer in the on-line version of this book at <http://www.mortimervillage.org.uk/history/index.htm> .



Mortimer Village Communications



Find us on:
facebook®

The Mortimer Village Partnership Facebook group is so popular! We now have nearly 1300 members who join in a 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.

Information about local road closures, lost and found items (and pets), recommendations for tradesmen, classes or tutors for children abound. Discussions of local parking issues, the WBC Housing Site Allocations consultation and the Mortimer hum have all been busy recently. Can it help you or can you contribute some local information?



I hope you have seen our notice board in its new location outside Budgens?

Did you know our website www.mortimervillage.org.uk gets more than 3500 user sessions per week?



Volunteers to help with deliveries of this newsletter 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	Danusia Morsley danusia@morsley.me.uk 9332620
Vice-chairman	Doug Overett doug.overett@tiscali.co.uk 9333285
Secretary	Lynn Hannawin lynn@i-next.co.uk 9332577
Treasurer	Rebecca Barker bbarkerdg@sky.com 9332008
Affiliates Secretary	Julie Carter juliecarter396@btinternet.com 9332265



Mortimer Village Partnership
Enriching Village Life

Just had to show off our new logo again!

*The committee has approximately another ten members but more are always welcome and very much needed to share the workload. 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.

