

Mortimer Village Partnership



Mortimer Village Partnership
Enriching Village Life

Newsletter

February 2015

*All this and more available
on our website*

www.mortimervillage.org.uk



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

Mortimer Spring Clean and MVP AGM

**Put Saturday March 21st 1 – 4pm
in your diary now!**

Lots of rubbish has accumulated over the winter and we need to clear it from verges etc. so that that lovely bright green spring foliage can come through for us all to enjoy. From 1 – 4pm the MVP gazebo will be in the Horse & Groom garden for you to come and collect litter-pickers, bags etc. and choose your area to clear up. Won't the village look great?!



This is followed immediately by MVP's AGM in the Methodist Church Hall from 4 – 5pm. We promise our report will be very short and our election of officers very efficient! But we **will be** awarding the next batch of MVP Queen's Award for Voluntary Service badges and certificates to many more people who have helped us in our work in the village. They deserve a big round of applause so come and thank them for what they do for all of us.



We are pleased to welcome the Hurst Singers to entertain us all at the AGM. They relocated to Mortimer last year and are one of our newer affiliates.

Thank you to all those people who support MVP activities in the village – we hope to see you on the 21st March. If you haven't before, make 2015 the year you can feel especially proud of Mortimer by contributing to all the good work going on.

I am stepping down as chairman at the AGM so the next MVP front page message will come from someone new!

Danusia Morsley
MVP Chairman

Affiliated Groups

...MVP looking to support and encourage local groups to grow in our community

MVP can provide the place for a first meeting; promote a group through our active website, Facebook page and local notice boards as well as via this newsletter. We provide a platform to show the village what your group is all about by having a 'stall' at the MVP Fun Day; this year on the 4th July. MVP also has an extensive list of useful equipment available to lend, from dustbins to bunting, chairs to gazebos. MVP acts as a link' between our affiliates, enabling them to lend to each other or support each other where appropriate. MVP can also offer photocopying and laminating services at cost. Affiliates are able to use the MVP logo on their material.

Membership is £10 per year (November to November) so if you are either part of a group you would like to see develop, or have an idea to start a new venture, then please contact our Affiliates Secretary, Julie Carter
juliecarter396@btinternet.com

Affiliates may have a front page *club of the month slot* on our website and we naturally include all events in the village calendar (although we also welcome calendar entries from others). At time of printing, this year's affiliates are:

South Berks Concert Band	Louise Truslove	southberksconcertband@yahoo.com
1st Mortimer Scouts	Neil Johnson	neilpj@1st-mortimer.org
Mortimer & District RNLI	John Bull	j.r.bull@btinternet.com
Willink School PTA	Hannah Shock	hannah.shock@btinternet.com
Mortimer Music Live	Jacqui Grant	jaqsgrant@btinternet.com
St Mary's School PTA	Heike Burnell	heike@burnell.org
Mortimer W.E. Village Hall Management Committee	Virginia Bray	virginia.bray@g.mail.com & mwevh@outlook.com
Mortimer Gardening Club	Denise Cregan	wiremanjc@tiscali.co.uk
Mortimer Flower Circle	Mary Ferguson	meferguson@btinternet.com
Mortimer Local History Group	Janet Munson	munsonsinmortimer@yahoo.co.uk
Mortimer Toddlers	Helen Murphy	hmj.murphy@gmail.com
The Hurst Singers	Mari Fleming	mariatseasons@aol.com
1st Mortimer Brownies	Rachel Ryan	firstmortimerbrownies@hotmail.co.uk
Mortimer Netball Club	Emily O'Sullivan	tehosullivan@gmail.com
1st Ufton Nerve Scouts	Cathryn Night	cathryn@uftonscouts.com
Mortimer Cricket Club	Adrian Smith	adrsmith@gmail.com
Mortimer Tennis Club	Belinda Chaplin	Bechaplin1@gmail.com
Mortimer Film Club	Pete Blagden	pete.blagden@btinternet.com
Mortimer 2012 WI	Barbara Lewis	Barbara_squirrels_60@hotmail.com
Mortimer Dramatic Society	Tom Shorrock	info@mortimer-dramatic.org

Calling all Volunteers!

This year we are delighted to have some new people with fresh ideas on the MVP committee. Two of these are Natasha O'Brien and Julia Meadows and they have bravely decided to take on the task of managing the vast numbers of

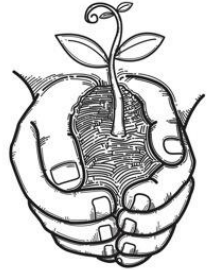
volunteers and volunteer roles we see in Mortimer. As ever, we are always looking for more people to help out at our various events such as the Fun Day, Lunch Club, Christmas events etc. If you are interested in helping out in the village, (and we're not asking for



much of your time, just a few hours per year in fact), please email us at volunteers@mortimervillage.org.uk to register. We have plans to send out a regular volunteer newsletter this year, so please register to keep in touch.

Community Garden

Four years ago a community garden was established behind the Horse and Groom. An agreement was made with the pub to allow a group to cultivate the area, having their own plots and sharing a greenhouse, fruit bushes etc. Surplus produce is donated to the pub as a tithe. The plot holders are expected to keep the area tidy and weeded. There are now two or three small plots available for use.



If you are interested, please contact Tricia at finlaysonp@yahoo.co.uk

Mortimer Lunch Club

Sometimes being old can be very enjoyable and our elderly residents that come to the MVP Lunch Club will certainly agree to that. DeVere Venues once again invited 30 members of the Lunch Club to come and enjoy the delights of Wokefield Park for a sumptuous Christmas Lunch. If that wasn't enough, the lovely staff members who work at BMW became chauffeurs for the day and collected everyone in their gorgeous cars. It was like being royalty for the day!



To add to the busy social lives of our lunch guests, the following week they were treated by an anonymous well-wisher – it must have been Santa – to yet another Christmas party in the Community Centre. Guests sat down to tables laden with Christmas goodies while the delightful children in the choir at Mortimer St John's Infant School entertained them to a selection of Christmas Carols. Go to the MVP website to look at some of the photos that were taken at our events.

The Lunch Club meets eleven months of the year with the kind support of De Vere Venues and ISS (the school caterers) who alternate making soup for our lunch guests with the support of supplies from Budgens. The children of St John's Infant school come once a month to share games and reading, we have other guests from time to time and we mustn't forget the all-important raffle – the proceeds from which fund a summer outing. This year we plan a river trip!

If you would like to come along to Lunch Club to make new friends, or you know someone who would appreciate some company then please call Cindy Kimber on 9882676 for more details.

We couldn't run Lunch Club at all without the support of a dedicated group of people who set up tables, wash-up, serve soup and act as chauffeurs, or most importantly sit and chat with the wonderful people that come along to Lunch Club. If you would like to join us then please contact Rebecca Barker on bbarkerdg@sky.com or 9332008 for more details.

A Plea from MVP!

Part of MVP's role in the village is to work with and help the promotion of all the events, groups and clubs that are put on for local people. We're not just here to promote our own events, indeed, this newsletter would be much thinner if it did. It is FREE OF CHARGE to be included in our newsletter and we publish it



3 times a year. We would be delighted to include your short article in our next copy. We only need a little paragraph or two and we're also very happy to help you write something or adjust it where necessary, so don't worry if you're not the next Shakespeare or Keats! So if you are interested in sharing your news or events or club details with about 2000 households

in and around Mortimer, please send an email to danusia@morsley.me.uk

The next deadline dates are 8th May (for delivery early June) and 6th September (for delivery early October). We do reserve editorial right not to include your article or to shorten it.

Forthcoming MVP Events

16th March - Bag2school...

...is here again. You will receive a bag to fill with unwanted clothes, shoes, handbags (no bricabrac, towels or bedding) in the next few weeks. And we will be coming to pick it up outside your house on Monday 16th March. Clear out your wardrobe and benefit both schools and MVP.



21st March – Spring Clean & MVP AGM

(see front page for details)

4th April – Easter Egg Hunt

The Mortimer Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Saturday April 4th 2015. Come and bring your family and friends to this fun, local charity fundraising event. Maps will go on sale from 14th March in Budgens, the Post Office and Dad's Shop.



16th – 22nd May – Mortimer & Area Sports Week

Would you like to have a go at a new sport?

MVP is now organising its 4th Mortimer Sports Weekend which will take place on Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th May, providing you and your family with a weekend of fun and excitement. Local sports organisations will be offering taster sessions in a wide array of different sports and activities. All equipment is provided and most activities are FREE! There's something for everyone, from tennis to sailing, golf to family circuits, from dancing to archery, from bowling to football, gymnastics to cricket, netball to cheerleading, judo to karate and there will be something for all ages and abilities and lots of things for youngsters and teenagers to have a go at. Try a few sports and you could even earn a medal! There are also additional activities for the grownups from the 18th – 22nd May too!



To take part all you do is purchase a Sports Passport which will be available after Easter from local organisations and shops, detailing all activities on offer, their times and any specific booking instructions that may apply and what you need to do to earn and claim a medal. It's a great way to try a new sport.

For more information, offers of support or suggestions please contact mortimersportsweekend@gmail.com

4th July – Mortimer Fun Day

Burgers, ice creams, thrilling rides and all the fun of the big arena activities.



**MORTIMER
FUN DAY**

We are already getting excited about the 2015 Mortimer Fun Day on July 4th and the chance for the whole village and surrounding areas to enjoy a fun-packed family day out again. This year is about more of what you like and more of what you may not have seen before!

In 2014, we saw for the first time a small display of classic (and exotic cars) and this year we hope to have a few more for us all to dream about and enjoy talking "TopGear" to the owners. We hope to again be joined by the Reading Pipes & Drums who gave us such a spectacle for our closing act last year.



We are delighted to welcome a new and very different *headline* event to the main arena... "The Welsh Axemen". Yes, actually joining us from the valleys, they will be demonstrating "axe racing" which for the uninitiated is the competitive sport of chopping up logs!..... And they have a few nifty tricks with a chain saw too, we are very sure you will not have seen anything like this before.



As always there will be the large inflatables, games and activities for children of all ages ... from 2 to 92! And a myriad of market row stalls with quality items.

To keep us all going through the day, The Mortimer Sausage Company will be on hand with their tasty, locally produced sausages and burgers while our friends from The Hatchgate in Burghfield will be again be offering some spicy Indian options. We will be opening the doors (or tent flats!) to the best pub in Mortimer "Laney & Dicks", serving local real ales, cider and wines and our refreshment tent will be serving the usual fantastic selection of home-made cakes and wash it all down with teas and coffees.

Recent Events

Dragons, Triffids and Transformers!

The warm weather of the autumn half term holiday seems a dim and distant memory but it was a blessing for Mortimer's 5th Scarecrow Trail, helping it to be the most successful to date. Unless you had left the country, hibernated or buried your head in a good book, refusing to leave the house for the week, you couldn't fail to have bumped into the science fiction and fantasy characters that adorned the streets of Mortimer! With 28 families, organisations and businesses creating the masterpieces it was a thoroughly entertaining trail.



JOHNNY 5 IS ALIVE

The fantastic creations saw Johnny 5 Alive being made out of car parts, St John's Hall being overrun by aliens - who also seemed to have left their underpants in the library - and a whole enchanted forest erupting in the middle of Loves Wood! Not to

be outdone, Dr Who had his own full sized Police Box and K9 had his own sausages and with so many characters from Star Wars we wouldn't have been surprised if there had been a sighting of George Lucas!

As ever, trail followers were faced with an almost impossible decision as to know who to vote for as the overall winners but congratulations to Felonious Gru and Harry Potter - joint winners of 'Children's Favourite', Darth Vader – winner of 'Funniest Scarecrow' and Yoda – winner of 'Adult's



Favourite'. CP30 & R2D2 also deserve a special mention as they did well in all three categories.

We'd like to thank all the scarecrow builders for their fabulous creations; Spratley's, Parkers, Dads Shop, Budgens, Mortimer Library, IDS Ltd and Pictures Everywhere for supporting the event in many and various ways and all the trail followers for wearing out their shoe leather.

If you are having Scarecrow Trail withdrawals – symptoms include wandering around Mortimer searching aimlessly and yearning for the autumn half term holiday to be just around the corner – then pictures of all 5 Scarecrows Trails can be found on the Mortimer Scarecrow Trail Facebook page. In addition there are a couple of YouTube videos from this year's trail:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TRBLX6OEUYI&feature=youtu.be>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3G9dyP-DYdM&feature=youtu.be>

Watch out for the next MVP newsletter and updates on the Mortimer Scarecrow Trail Facebook page, or at www.mortimervillage.org.uk, because the 2015 trail will be upon us before we know it!

Santa's Grotto, Christmas 2014

The smell of mulled wine and freshly baked mince pies wafted through St Johns Hall on the 13th December around the wide variety of craft and activity stalls. Through the intriguing small gap between the stage curtain was a glimpse of Winter Wonderland, the only part of the Santa's Grotto that was visible to those unlucky enough not to have a ticket to see Santa himself. The make-and-do activities proved very popular for the younger visitors and the craft-selling stalls had many gorgeous goods for sale. Everyone who visited had a lovely time, the children of the village especially enjoying their visit to Santa and the early Christmas present he gave them. MVP would like to thank everyone involved for their contribution to the day, and are making arrangements for Santa to visit Mortimer again next year!



Carol Singing

As in previous years we held well attended events in Mortimer and Burghfield. In both villages folk gathered around the Christmas tree on Saturday 13th December. Thankfully the night was dry and bright, and seasonally cold.



In Mortimer the occasion was boosted by musicians from the South Berks Community Band, with a great array of instruments, all ably led (and kept in order) by Jo Paterson-Neild. We were also delighted by the turn out, perhaps a hundred or so voices to sing traditional

carols and calypsos, and to listen to the familiar Christmas readings around the birth of Jesus. In all it was a great family occasion. It was enhanced by the mulled wine and food provided by the Mortimer Sausage Company. Scrumptious!

Burghfield held a similarly successful event, though with a new tree and (generally considered to be) better and brighter lights, it was felt to have the edge over Mortimer in the tree stakes. Is that a challenge for next year?

Some folk have commented that it was a pity that both events were held on the same day; the date being set by our parish councils. Perhaps it may be possible to change this next year.

Pantomime - Aladdin

Saturday 20th December saw Pyramid Productions return to St Johns Hall for the 2nd year running to entertain us all with their Christmassy pantomime. This year, 200 of us got to cheer, shout, sing (and two lucky gents even got to flirt), with the cast of Aladdin. A fantastic afternoon filled with festive fun was had by all. Keep your eyes peeled later in 2015 for news and dates of the next panto.....



What a Wonderful Life - Performed to a sold-out village hall!

On February 1st, the village-touring theatre group, Farnham Maltings, delighted the Mortimer theatre audience with the very last showing of their autumn 2014 UK tour of It's a Wonderful Life. Adapted by Mary Elliott Nelson and directed by Gavin Stride they brought the struggles and joys of 1940's small town America to Mortimer. It was a warm-hearted and touching play that followed the story of George Bailey, a middle-aged clerk who discovered the difference he made to his family, his friends and his home town – with a little help from Clarence, the apprentice angel. Stride writes, "*Not only was it one of my favourite stories but*

it felt really important, now more than ever, to be celebrating the effect, big or small, that we all make within our communities and homes."

This is particularly poignant in Mortimer, where volunteering and helping within our community is one of the biggest things making our village great.



Theatre Trips

More theatre trips are planned in 2015 so ensure you are on the mailing list to ensure you don't miss out. See our website or email bbarkerdg@sky.com for more details.



MVP Affiliates

Mortimer Cricket Club in 2015

Inaugurated in 1890, in 2015 Mortimer Cricket Club celebrates its 125th Anniversary!



This year will see a number of special events to commemorate this milestone in the history of cricket in the village. The Club will, of course, be holding its annual 6-a-side Competition in June, and a repeat of the Mortimer CC vs MVP cricket match, which was such a success last year! It will also be continuing to run Kwik Cricket coaching for children on Sunday mornings on The Fairground in the summer and will once again be taking part in the popular

Mortimer Passport to Sport Weekend.

We run a friendly Sunday XI and a Mid-Week XI that plays evening limited overs matches in the Reading Mid-Week League. It is open to players of all ages and all abilities. If you would like to turn out for the Club, practice at nets, or just give the game a try, then please contact Ian Bliss on 07826 504425.

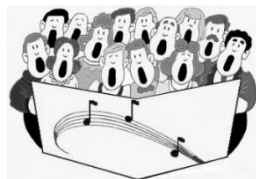
We are also working towards installing an outdoor net for cricket practice on the Fairground. The Parish Council have given their blessing and, whenever the Club is not using it, the net will be available to anyone who would like to develop their skills, or learn the game. We hope to have the net ready for use during the coming summer.

In the meantime, anyone, of any standard, can come along to winter nets, held at the Willink School from **11am to 12.30pm on Sunday mornings**, beginning on Sunday January 18th. There will be Kwik Cricket for children of 8 years upwards at the same time and also in the main sports hall at Willink.

The Hurst Singers...

...meet at St Johns Hall every Thursday from 7.30pm. to 9.30pm. More singers are needed of all abilities. No need to be able to read music. We are a friendly group with a wide repertoire. Recently relocated to Mortimer, we are really enjoying both the hall and the welcome given to us by the village. The recent Christmas Concert was warmly received and enjoyed by all who attended.

The 2015 term started on Thursday 8th January, each session costs £3 payable termly and new members are offered the first half of the first term free of charge. All music is supplied. Hurst Singers currently offer two public performances each year both in St Johns Hall - in July and December - but are happy to come along and sing for local charities or residential homes or any other local group or event. For more information about The Hurst Singers see the website: www.hurst-singers.co.uk



Mortimer and District Flower Club

2015 is a very special year for the Mortimer and District Flower Circle as it is our 40th Anniversary year. In celebration of the event we will be holding an afternoon tea party on 10th May, and we hope that as many former and current members as possible will join us, so if you have been a member of the club at any time during the past 40 years we would love to hear from you.



Our usual meetings will continue as usual on the second Monday of the month at St John's Hall Mortimer, and our first demonstration of the year will be on Monday 9th March when Jackie Page will present her demonstration 'In the Style of....'. Doors open at 7:15pm, and visitors are always very welcome. If you would like more information about the club, please contact mortimerflowercircle@gmail.com

Mortimer Netball Club

We have had a very good start to our 2014-2015 season and an exciting year ahead! The Reading & District Netball League is nearing the half way point and we now have 4 teams: Mortimer Pinks, Blacks and Whites playing on a Wednesday and the all new Saturday's playing at the weekend. All teams have welcomed new players this year and the club has grown considerably since we started as Mortimer Mums.



We enjoyed meeting visitors to our stand at the Mortimer Fun Day with lots of people, young and old, visiting us to try and score as many goals in 1 minute to win one of our prizes. We look forward to another great day this year.

We're also looking forward to the Club making its first European appearance as we're taking a team out to La Manga in Spain to compete in the Netball Sevens tournament!

We are a friendly, competitive club open to all ladies over 18. We train on Monday's at Academy Sport in Reading, if you're interested in joining us for a free training session then please get in touch. www.mortimernetballclub.com

Mortimer Toddlers...



...is held every Tuesday morning including some school holidays. 9:30-11:30am in the Community Centre opposite the Horse & Groom. Everyone with under-5s including pregnant mums and small babies are welcome. Every week there is an art/craft activity and plenty of toys. There is a baby corner with playmats/bouncy chairs etc. Unlimited tea and coffee and a snack

mid-morning for the children. Your first session is FREE, then £2/week per family.

Mortimer 2012 WI (contact details on page 2)

Mar 4th – AGM and Talk on Diamonds

Apr 2nd – Tales of the Opera by Patricia Purcell

Mortimer Film Club...

...is your local film club that shows films across a wide range of genres, including foreign subtitled, black & white classics as well as independents. We currently meet on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at the Community Centre. For full details of membership costs please go to: mortimerfilmclub@hotmail.co.uk or call Pete Blagden on 9332546.



Here's the listing for the next few months:

18th February The Lunchbox (2013) (India) (PG)

A mistaken delivery in Mumbai's famously efficient lunchbox delivery system connects a young housewife to an older man in the dusk of his life as they build a fantasy world together through notes in the lunchbox.

18th March Philomena (2013) (UK/France/USA) (PG)

A world-weary political journalist picks up the story of a woman's search for her son, who was taken away from her decades ago after she became pregnant and was forced to live in an Irish convent.

15th April Jimmy's Hall (2014) (UK/Ireland/France) (12A)

Political activist Jimmy Gralton comes up against the Irish establishment when he opens a hall enabling the community to sing, dance, box and study – in particular the local Squire and priest.

Mortimer Local History Group

The Mortimer Local History Group meets every third Thursday of the month at 8pm in the meeting room at the Methodist Church. Its aim is to collect and record and educate on all aspects of local history. Visitors and new members very welcome. Copies of the Society's latest book 'Mortimer in the 19th Century' are available for sale from Budgens priced £8.99 a copy. Contact Carolyn Owen for further details 933 2533 cojackdaw@aol.co.uk



The subject of our next meeting on March 9th at 8pm is John Smith "How the Romans' lived and fought"

MORTIMERMUSIC live. On **27th Feb.** there's a chance to sample the sound of **Forty Fingers** a sax quartet who play 'all kinds of music in all kinds of places'. One member lives in Mortimer and following the taster evening they'll be playing a full concert in Mortimer on **Sat. 7th March.**

Following the success of last year's 'Planet Abba' at Fun Day, we're pleased to confirm we're bringing music to this year's event too. This time it's the tribute act **Queen II**. They're supported by Mortimer Music's ever popular discovery

Nicolette Street. It's on **Fun Day Sat. 4th July** from **7pm.** Tickets will be on sale soon.

For latest ticket information check out www.mortimermusiclive.co.uk, our facebook page www.facebook.com/mortimermusiclive, follow us on twitter www.twitter.com/mortimermusic or simply give us a ring on 07446 239239.

Our last Open Mic. night at The Horse and Groom in October introduced some excellent new acts notably Dan Saunders, Charlotte Pattenden and Paul McAlister. It also gave another chance to hear Izzie Jewell and Lucy Sykes. The evening raised £147.22 for Cancer Research too.

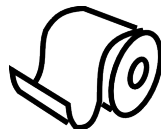
Mortimer Music Live is a not for profit Mortimer Village Partnership Affiliated Group.

Other Local Clubs, Charities and News

Burghfield Mortimer and District Food Bank

On behalf of Churches Together in Burghfield, Sulhamstead and Mortimer, grateful thanks to everyone who made donations to the Food Bank in 2014. Food Bank volunteers distributed **238 Food Parcels** to local people in 2014, 85 to people in Burghfield Common, 68 to people in Mortimer and 85 to people living in the District. (The District stretches from Aldermaston through Theale and Beech Hill to Arborfield.)

The Food Bank supported **58 local households** with donated food in 2014, 24 households in Burghfield Common, 12 households in Mortimer and 22 households in the District. This is an extra 73 Food Parcels distributed in 2014 compared with 2013.



Thanks to Church & School Harvest donations we have stocks of some basics but need Coffee, Tinned Puddings, Sugar (small bags) Toiletries (tooth paste, shower gel, shampoo, T rolls, etc) & Squash. Donations can be left in the libraries, local Churches, Burghfield Children's Centre and Mortimer Post Office. Contact via 07770 56 56 25.



TiM News

It's shaping up to be a busy 2015 here at TiM and recruiting new Volunteers is our No 1 priority!



Our big news is we're hoping to open Café B on Friday afternoons from April 2015 but for this, we are going to need extra volunteers. So please can anyone (especially those who get on well with young people) get in touch with our Café Manager, **Emma Shumsky** on 9832020 or emma@cafeb.co.uk



TiM Friends are our *befriending of the elderly* team and they need volunteers for our male clients in Mortimer. They are also open to referrals of new clients. Their events which include a Lunch Club, Singing for the Brain, Crafts Morning and Home Visit also need new helpers. Contact coordinator, Bev French on 07748 686615

And of course we look forward to seeing you in our Pop-up Coffee Concessions at Burghfield May Fayre and Mortimer Fun Day later this year. You can keep up-to-date with all the TiM Services, Initiatives and Projects at our new website www.togetherinmission.org.uk

Part-time Job Opportunity

Together in Mission (TiM) has a befriending service (TiM Friends) in the Burghfield and Mortimer areas. We urgently seek a co-ordinator to identify people in need of such a service. Experience in the caring professions, pastoral ministry and charity work is desirable, but not essential. For further details please contact admin@togetherinmission.org.uk

Singing for the Brain



Jenny is a TiM Friends volunteer and shares her client's experience of this local activity. *"Doreen really loves the Singing for the Brain session that takes place in the Burghfield Common Methodist Church Hall every second Wednesday afternoon. There is a welcome cup of tea and a biscuit and a relaxing atmosphere. We sing songs, usually on a theme, that most of us know or can easily pick up and there are sometimes songs that involve us using percussion instruments as well as actions, producing smiles all round. Doreen and I always end up singing more songs on the drive home afterwards."*

The spring dates on Wednesdays are confirmed as:-

January 7th & 21st, February 4th & 25th and March 11th & 25th.

More information from Kim Westall, West Berks Dementia Support Worker
Phone 07713390712, or email kim.westall@alzheimers.org.uk

Mortimer St John's Village Hall Management Committee...

...is looking to appoint a new Treasurer. At the moment, Mr Nick Munson, a committee member for many years, has temporarily taken on the job. The work will involve monthly banking of casual hirers' fees and quarterly invoicing the regular users. The treasurer also oversees the providers and payment of the utility companies, along with a straightforward annual account.

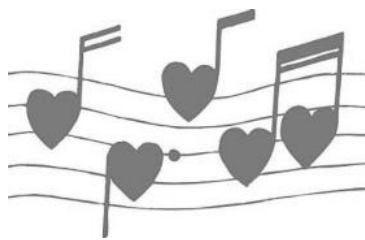


**A LOOK
at the
BUDGET**

If you are interested in filling this voluntary position please contact: Tom Shorrocks, Chairman at tshorrocks@mrmerlin.com or Nick Munson on 07905617665.

Love Songs Just For You

Belle Canto, an exciting new ladies trio, will sing love songs from Music Hall to Opera and take you on a journey of happy, funny and nostalgic moments, combined with "Tea for Two" just for YOU.



Gabi McKeown, Heather Sims and Jane Greenshields will entertain you with well-known solos, duets and trios, accompanied by pianist Bernard Soper. You'll be in for a musical and tasty treat. Home-made cakes and tea or coffee are included in the package to make it a special occasion for YOU and your loved ones and your dear friends.

Sunday, 15th Feb 2015, 3pm
at Beech Hill Memorial Hall (opposite the church)
Wood Lane, Beech Hill, Reading, RG7 2BE

Tickets £10 (includes home-made cake and tea/coffee)
from Gabi McKeown: gabi.mckeown@gmail.com Phone: 9882530 or Heather Sims: hsims@olivers.cix.co.uk Phone: 970 0001 or at the door

We're looking forward very much to seeing you.

Count the Kicks...

...is a UK charity aiming to reduce the number of families that experience the tragedy of stillbirth in the UK which currently still stands at 17 babies daily. By educating expectant mums on the importance of monitoring their baby's movements, the charity aims to reduce this number by a third and help expectant mothers to have healthier pregnancies. You can help raise funds through their recycling scheme, collecting Tassimo pods and foils, sweet biscuit wrappers, used stamps, used printer ink cartridges, baby food pouches, washing up liquid lids, trigger release tops from cleaning products (not bleach) and packaging from household cleaning wipes (not baby and toddler wipes). The recycled goods are turned into funds which go back to the charity. In 2014 across the UK we raised £9,500 just from recycling everyday rubbish!



I have collection points at Mortimer Post Office, Burghfield Children Centre and at the Mortimer Toddler group and am on the lookout for more, so if your school, work place or anywhere else would be interested in having a collection box please do let me know. For further information please visit the www.countthekicks.org.uk and [www.Facebook.com/groups/ctkburghfield](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ctkburghfield) or contact Izzy Wilding on isobelwilding@gmail.com - Count the Kicks Volunteer

Mortimer Past and Present

A lot of the discussion on the MVP FB page recently has centred around the quality of the various services in the village. It is interesting to reflect back to when such things were new and to wonder how people managed without. When do you think electricity came to the village? When did we first have a doctor's surgery? A police force? Organised fire fighters? *Answers at the bottom of the page, courtesy of Mortimer Local History Group.*

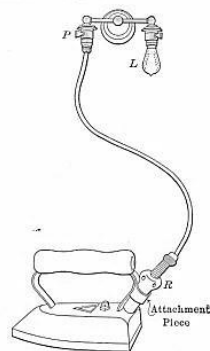


Fig. 226.—Electric flat-iron and its attachments.

Initially The Wessex Electricity Company installed three lights and one 15-amp 3-pin plug free for each new customer in Mortimer; many thought this sufficient and rigged up complicated webs of wires, often running their appliances off the five-amp lighting circuit via bayonet extensions in the bulb sockets.

Mortimer Village Communications



The Mortimer Village Partnership Facebook group is so popular! We now have 1580 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.



Recent topics have included: which houses are connected to which green boxes (for superfast broadband), several local job ads, offers of places to charge phones or flasks of hot water when we had the power cuts, a new Mortimer Wildlife page, tools needed and loaned, and lost debit cards, keys, misaddressed letters and cats all reunited with



their owners. Can it help you or can you contribute some local information?

We have revised the system for delivering newsletters and other village communications. If you could deliver to your road or a road near you, perhaps 3 times per year, please contact Danusia Morsley 9332620 danusia@morsley.me.uk if you have not already been contacted by me or Pete Blagden.



Did you know our website www.mortimervillage.org.uk now gets more than 4000 user sessions per week?

Electricity: 1936, Surgery: 1825, Police force: 1872; Fire fighters: 1895 – read more at <http://www.mortimervillage.org.uk/history/index.htm>

A day in the life...

BBC Berkshire's roving reporters were back in Mortimer last month wanting to know more about Dad's Shop and taking a coffee break in the Café. The big news though was that Tony Blackburn, recently celebrating his 50 years in radio, had heard a rumour that an old shipmate from his "pirate" days was still alive and living in Mortimer. The partner in piracy, who Tony thought had died years ago, was said to be walking around and last seen on Budgen's customer services till. So the reporter "tweeted" the inevitable selfie...of Richard Swainson. That was convincing but Tony did a final check - phoning Richard to ask him his nickname from offshore radio days. "Sally", came the reply. "That's him!", exclaimed (Bessie) Blackburn.



Most of us, even the Mortimer Pirate Club (both of us), had missed the fact that 50 years ago Richard worked for the music producer who'd become frustrated at the hopeless battle to get radio airplay for songs. 'Needletime' was limited to two hours per week on the BBC. He decided to fix it by starting his own radio station on a boat anchored off Essex. He asked Richard if he fancied becoming link man between land and sea for what became Radio Caroline. Richard was up for a challenge and so became a central part of the 1960s radio and pop revolution, working with Tony and later, having been poached by Radio London, household names including John Peel and Kenny Everett. They invited Richard to BBC Berkshire last month to reunite with Tony after 30 years. After the emotion of the entrance, and some views on who looked younger, (which Richard won comfortably), they chatted on air about the old times as colleagues and friends. An amazing story! I keep offering to go to to Budgen's to buy milk and sneak in another question. If you missed the interview and want to catch it feel free to get in touch nickcarter1@gmail.com.

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	Michelle Goulding meesh.goulding@gmail.com
Affiliates Secretary	Julie Carter juliecarter396@btinternet.com

*The committee has about another 7 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 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.