

Mortimer Village Partnership

Newsletter



Mortimer Village Partnership
Enriching Village Life

June 2015

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



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

Facebook, NDP, Axemen & Sausages: Never a Dull Moment in Mortimer.

Many of you will be very familiar with the MVP Facebook page. I have to say I am a recent convert (more of a reader than a "poster"). Many people post regularly and, with almost 1800 members, the discussions that run through the pages are many and varied. In recent weeks the topics ranged from interesting debates about the Parish Council elections and Photos of the Easter Egg Hunt, to the Neighbourhood Development Plan and who can recommend a good plumber!

It's a great way to find out what is going on and clearly the MVP FB community is one to be reckoned with!

In this Newsletter we focus on the forthcoming Mortimer Fun Day on 4th July; the biggest event in the Mortimer Calendar and also one of the largest events in the area, drawing visitors from far and wide. This edition is packed with information... **and calls for help**. It is bigger and better than ever before, headlined by the Welsh Axemen visiting us from "The Valleys". We have lots of new activities, as well as the usual beer, sausages, tea and cakes... Entry is once again FREE TO ALL.

You can read a review of our latest theatre event "Miss Caledonia", brought to the village back in May. We were delighted to be able to donate all profits to help support the local Air Ambulance service. We are announcing the 2015 theme for the best Scarecrow Trail in Berkshire (or maybe even the UK!) so, just in case you wondered what to do during the long hot summer, why not make a scarecrow?

A refresh of the "Community Led Plan" is due later this year. Previously called the Parish Plan, it led to the creation of the Mortimer Village Partnership back in 2009. The Parish Council has requested this be led by MVP, but a much broader mix of contributors will be needed... so please see the article later in this newsletter.

As always, we are looking for people to help us. To get involved, check Facebook or the MVP website; it's a great place to start.

Doug Overett – MVP Chairman

MVP Affiliate News



The Hurst Singers (www.hurst-singers.co.uk)

The Hurst Singers are holding a summer concert at St Johns Hall on Saturday 20th June at 7.30pm. Join us and hear songs from shows and films, including a Miss Saigon medley and a variety of entertaining solos and duets. There will be a chance to win a bottle of bubbly. Tickets are available on the night for £6; everyone welcome.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Fun Day, so come and sing with us throughout the day!

Mortimer Dramatic Society (www.mortimer-dramatic.org)

The next Mortimer Dramatic Society Play is Kindertransport by Dianne Samuels on 29th & 30th May and 5th & 6th June 2015 at St Johns Hall, West End Road.

Just before the outbreak of WW2, 9 year old Eva is one of almost 10,000 Jewish children to be sent by their parents on the Kindertransport journey to temporary safety with a foster family in Britain, but is ultimately forced to confront the truth about her past after her daughter discovers some letters and photos in the attic.

This is a beautiful play about mother/daughter relationships, of partings and reunions, of love, fear, pain and humour. Kindertransport has won many awards and is on our schools' English Literature and Drama examination study list.



Tickets are £9.00 each and can be booked online through our website or by calling 0778 533 3321.

Mortimer Local History Group



During May we erected posters on the village notice boards commemorating those who died during WW1 from the villages of Mortimer, Mortimer West End and Padworth.

There will be continuing acts of remembrance throughout the next three years and matters relating to WW1 will be discussed during our monthly meetings (8pm, third Thursday each month, Methodist Church, West End Road). Other subjects will include names from school photographs, entrepreneurs from our recent past, metal detecting in a members garden, and the May Queen and the Basque children who entertained local people in traditional dress and dance around 1938.

Our Fun Day exhibition will include some historical and present day humour, and may test people's senses and stimulate more local agricultural knowledge.

MORTIMERMUSIC live.

Following the success of last year's "Planet Abba", this year we are bringing the acclaimed tribute act **Queen II** to the Mortimer Fun Day, supported by Mortimer Music's ever popular discovery **Nicolette Street**.



It'll be in the Main Marquee on **Fun Day Saturday 4th July**, with doors opening at 7pm. There will be a **licensed bar**, so please don't bring alcohol or chairs. Tickets are on sale now at just £10 in advance (or £12 on the door if not sold out) from www.mortimermusic.co.uk, Dad's Shop, Mortimer Post Office, Budgens and the Fruit Shop Burghfield. A sell out is predicted, so buy now to avoid disappointment and to save £2.

We also have another of our popular open mic music nights at The Horse & Groom on Friday 12th June from 7.30pm. Musicians of all types welcome. If the weather is good the performance will be outdoors.

For the latest news on these events check our web site: www.mortimermusiclive.co.uk our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/mortimermusiclive or follow us on Twitter: www.twitter.com/mortimermusic. You could also scan the image below or simply call 07446 239239.

South Berks Concert Band



SBCB is a Gold Award winning woodwind, brass and percussion band who rehearse every Friday in St John's CE Infant School and perform both formal concerts and afternoon bandstand events throughout the year. We bring together musicians of all ages and abilities, and have over 40 members playing traditional wind band arrangements, original compositions, music from films, TV & radio, as well as musicals, popular classical arrangements, solo pieces and more.

With over 16 types of brass and woodwind instruments, plus a vast array of percussion instruments, the combinations of sounds can be extremely varied and often surprising. Why not come along to our Summer Concert on 5th July in the Marquee on Mortimer Fairground and experience it for yourselves?

Tickets are available in local shops. For more information check out our website: www.southberksmusic.org.uk, follow us on Twitter: [@SBCBMusic](https://twitter.com/SBCBMusic), or on Facebook: www.facebook.com/southberksconcertband

Mortimer Tennis Club

We are a small but very friendly club with ~50 members. Weather permitting, we play non-competitive social tennis 3 times a week April to September on the Parish Council-owned courts on Mortimer Fairground. Social tennis is on Tuesdays from 6:15pm until dusk, Thursdays from 6pm until dusk and Sundays from 4pm to 6pm. For the more competitive players we are part of the Basingstoke League and currently field two Mixed, two Men's and two Ladies doubles teams.

We also host a number of social events:

- The last Thursday of every month - quiz at the Horse and Groom.
- The beginning and end of the season - picnic and fun tournament.
- The end of the summer - tennis coaching weekend away.
- Christmas - curry and award ceremony.

If you would like to find out more or want to join, please contact our Membership Secretary Belinda Chaplin; bechaplin1@gmail.com or on 07729 180784.



Mortimer Toddlers



Mortimer Toddlers is open for under 5's from 9:30-11:30 on Tuesday mornings term time and some school holidays. It's held in the Community Centre opposite the Horse and Groom. Activities include arts and crafts, cars, ride-on toys, dolls and dressing-up, and a baby area with toys, playmats, etc. There is plenty to keep little ones amused. Tea, coffee, drink and a snack is all included for your £2 entrance fee, but your first week is FREE.

Together In Mission (TiM)

TiM Friends Befriending Service celebrates its 2nd anniversary in June, and we are delighted to welcome Aimee Fisher as our new Client Coordinator, working alongside Bev French. MVP was awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2014 & we are very proud that Brenda Baldwin, George Bolland and Bev French of TiM Friends were included in this accolade.

TiM Volunteers distributed a magnificent donation of 40 Easter eggs from the Rotary Club of Pangbourne and Thames Vale Vultures to people in the TiM Friends network. A "Pie and Pint" for gentlemen will be launched in June at the Hatch Gate following success at The Horse & Groom. Other activities include poetry, gardening, craft and lunch clubs, "Singing for the Brain" coffee mornings at Café B in Burghfield, or quiet visits in Friends' homes.

We are constantly looking for both clients and volunteers. Contact Bev or Aimee at bev@togetherinmission.org.uk or visit www.togetherinmission.org.uk for information.



1st Ufton Nerve Scout Group



On our 1st anniversary we already have 50 members in the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts who have taken part in a myriad of activities such as feeding the Bishop of Reading breakfast, going down the Emmer Green chalk mine where all the Reading Registrars' files were stored during WWII, marching on Remembrance Sunday to the Burghfield War Memorial and fund raising by managing the car park for the Mortimer Scramble and by packing groceries for the shoppers on Sainsbury's checkouts.

We are looking forward to cooking at the SUN Parish Summer BBQ, camping at the Family Camp at Ufton Court and mowing the churchyard at St Mary's, Sulhamstead.

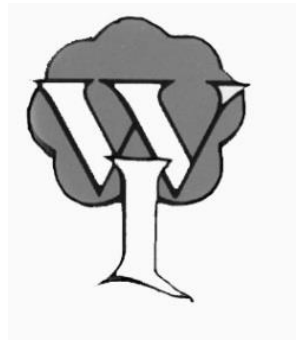
The Beavers (6-7pm) and Cubs (6:30-8pm) meet during the term time on Tuesdays at the SUN Village Hall, and the Scouts meet on Thursdays from 7-9pm. Further information can be seen on the scout group website www.uftonscouts.com or email the Group Scout leader cathryn@uftonscouts.com

Mortimer 2012 W.I.

We are a friendly and relatively new Women's Institute, with members of all ages who meet at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of each month at the Mortimer Community Centre. You can come along as our guest for up to 2 meetings before joining. We also enjoy theatre visits, walks around Mortimer, crafts, a book group and any other activities members wish to pursue. This year we are celebrating 100 years of the W.I. as a campaigning organisation and force for change.

Our speakers for the coming months are;
Wednesday 1st July – Edward Dixon
Wednesday 5th August – Julia Phillipson
Wednesday 2nd Sept – Derek Seward
Wednesday 7th October – Margaret Baxter

Postcards of the Great War
Alexander Children's Hospice
Mortimer Local History: Swards
Bee-keeping



We'll be at the Fun Day selling our delicious homemade cakes, so please come along and chat to us, or for more information contact marjorie.mcclure@hotmail.co.uk

Mortimer West End Village Hall

The committee at Mortimer West End Village Hall was delighted to join in the fun on Easter Saturday at the Mortimer Easter Egg Hunt organised by Mortimer Pre-School. A fabulous event and extremely well organised – thanks to Amy and all the team.



Our 'Name the Bunny' competition proved popular – as did the chocolate eggs! We were there to promote a special offer for children's parties at Mortimer West End Village Hall, which includes:

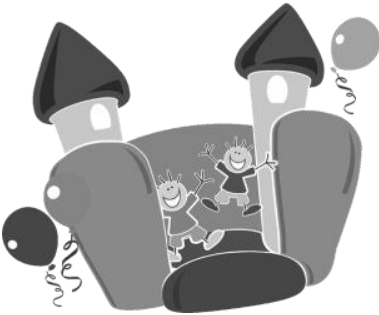
- 4 hours hall use to allow for set-up and tidy-up.
- Use of the large hall, kitchen and small hall for teas.
- Plenty of safe, off-road parking.
- Ideal for crafts.

For more information please contact mwevh@outlook.com or call our bookings secretary Beryl Donnelly on 0118 933 2913.

Upcoming MVP Events

Mortimer Fun Day

MVP volunteers are hard at work putting together what we think will be the best Fun Day yet! Put the date in your diary:



Saturday 4th July

10:30 – 5:30

One of the unique things about Mortimer Fun Day is:

It's free to enter!!!

MVP's main aim for this event is for everyone to have a good time, from families to grandparents and teenagers too, without worrying about costs. The generosity of all our sponsors makes this event something very special where we keep the prices of everything organised by MVP, from refreshments to bouncy castles, as low as we possibly can.

Mortimer Fun Day truly is a celebration for our whole community.

WANTED:

**VOLUNTEERS!
NEEDED!**

...You.

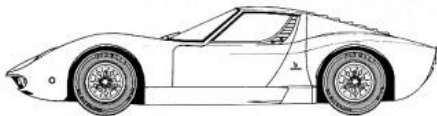
We have lots of 2-hour volunteer slots available during the Fun Day and for set-up the day before & clear-up the day after. There are also some opportunities to sell raffle tickets in advance outside Budgens or McColls on both Saturday 20th and 27th June. Please call Natasha on 07956 245 295 or email volunteer@mortimervillage.org.uk

...Soft Toys.

Clean soft toys in good condition are needed as prizes in "Captain Squawk's Lucky Shuffle" in the Kids' Fun Zone. Contact Lynn Hannawin lynn@i-next.co.uk 9332577.

...Classic Cars.

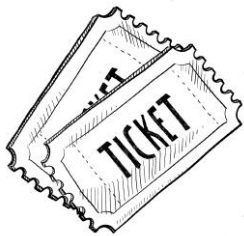
We would love you to bring your classic car for everyone to admire. Please contact Richards Cairns Rcairns06@gmail.com to book yours in.



...Items For The Tombola & Raffle.

Help us make enough money to run the Fun Day next year. Please donate:

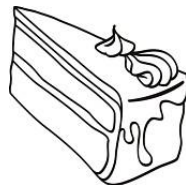
- Unwanted gifts.
- Knick knacks in good condition.
- Toiletries - single items or sets.
- Tins, jars or bottles of food, alcoholic or non-alcoholic drinks (with use-by-date after 4th July 2015, please).
- As-new games and puzzles.
- Jewellery items and accessories.
- Unused address and birthday books or little memo books.
- Anything else that you feel may be suitable.



Any donation, no matter how big or small, is always much appreciated. To arrange delivery or collection please call Rachel James on 933 1495 or email rachel_james34@yahoo.com

...Cakes.

Please call Bev French on 07748686615 / 9836568 or email bevrench6@googlemail.com if you could make a cake for the Fun Day tea and cake stall.



...Your money.

The proceeds from the raffle is one of the things that helps MVP run the Fun Day with no entrance fee, so look for the volunteers selling raffle tickets outside Budgens and McColls in the weeks leading up to our event and please buy generously. There will be a number of luxury gift boxes plus many lovely prizes donated by the Market Row stall holders and local businesses. The draw will be announced at the end of the Fun Day.



What Happens to the Money from the Fun Day?

The main aim of the Fun Day is to provide an affordable event for all the family, so MVP strives wherever possible, with the help of our sponsors, to keep the costs of activities low and the entrance free. The Fun Day costs a great deal to put on, but if it raises more money than required to get next year's event underway, MVP will donate it to local causes.

Girlguiding

Come and visit the Girlguiding stall to find out about opportunities for girls and women within Guiding in your village. Whilst you are there, why not have a go at building the tallest tower of the day? All building materials are provided, you need only bring your skill and imagination. The competition is free and open to all. We look forward to seeing you there.



Thames Valley Guide Dogs



Come and visit the Thames Valley Guide Dogs group to find out about how the charity changes the lives of people that are blind or partially sighted. With our great soft toy tombola and lots of Guide Dogs gifts, toys and stationery available, it's a stall you don't want to miss.

Thank You in Advance

The Mortimer Village Partnership Fun Day team would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone who is taking part in the Fun Day. In particular an advance thank you to all of our **volunteers** – expect a call from the team in the coming weeks!



MVP thanks **Andrew and Team** for providing the first aid cover for our event.

MVP extends a special thank you to **Stewart Stanley** who puts together all the electrics needed for our event.



MVP thanks **Greenham Common Trust** for their continuing support for the work of MVP.

MVP thanks **J. Mould** for yet again providing a skip for all the rubbish we generate.

J. Mould (Reading)



MVP thanks **County Hire** for providing the generators for the day.

MVP thanks **Harvey Crocker** for the loan of hay bales to surround our arena.

Pull-Out Programme

Saturday 4th July

10:30 a.m. – 17:30 p.m.

FREE ENTRY



Axes, Pipes, Tanks and Sausages... It's Fun Day again!

Our 6th Fun Day; it seems to have developed a life of its own! I guess you can't keep a good thing down...

Bigger isn't always better, so this year we have concentrated on better. But guess what? It just gets BIGGER too!

We have some great Arena events, headed up with the arrival, from the Valleys of Mid Wales, of the **Welsh Axemen**.

They will be demonstrating the skill and strength of **Axe Racing**...

"What is that?" I hear you ask. Come along, find out and cheer for your favourite Axe Man (who knew you had one?).

The **Reading Scottish Pipe Band** made such a spectacular debut last year that we had to get them back.

We have the usual big activities: Zorbs and Bungees; but what about driving your own mini tank or trying combat archery? When we saw these we just couldn't resist bringing them to the Fun Day.

This year we have added to our catering partners, so even more great food, but with shorter queues! Come for the day, soak up the atmosphere, enjoy the tea & cakes, sausages, hog roast and visit our own "Pop-up Pub".

But most all ... **Have a FUN DAY!**

Doug Overett

Fun Day Project Manager

Mortimer Village Partnership

What's on in the Arena This Year?

11:30	Kennet Flyball Club
12:00	G Street
12:30	Berkshire Search & Rescue Dogs
13:00	G Street Dance Company
13:30	Welsh Axe Men (sponsored by Dara Portraits)
14:00	All Stars
14:30	Shinfield Shambles (sponsored by Rachel Loubser, Mortimer Post Office)
15:00	IHS Reading Scottish Pipe Band (sponsored by Calor)
15:30	Kennet Flyball Club
16:00	Welsh Axe Men
16:30	IHS Reading Scottish Pipe Band
17:00	Raffle Prize winners announcement MVP Sports Weekend Awards Calor Cook-Off winner Welly Wanging Champion

Our headline event this year is the **Welsh Axemen**, here to demonstrate their skills with saw and axe in the felling of trees and the cutting of logs.

Shinfield Shambles is a morris side, dancing in the Welsh border style. They practise weekly in Shinfield Parish Hall. Visit www.shinfieldshambles.com for more details.

Kennet Flyball - watch this fast and furious team sport for dogs, in which teams of four compete in a relay race over four hurdles to retrieve a ball from a spring loaded box and return back over the hurdles to the start line.

Berkshire Search and Rescue Dogs will be demonstrating the vital service they perform in locating lost or missing vulnerable people within the Berkshire area. They are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to assist Search & Rescue teams, the Police and other emergency services. They are entirely reliant on sponsorship and donations.

All Stars Theatre Academy is based in Mortimer and many of the surrounding villages. Professional tuition from first fun steps at 2½ to specialised, intensive training ready for Dance College; classes in Ballet, Tap, Modern, Gymnastics, Street Dance and much more.

GStreet Dance is a Reading based group now providing sessions in Mortimer. They specialise in street dance for 3 – 18 year olds and street fitness for adults.

IHS Reading Scottish Pipe Band has a long history of entertaining crowds, including the London 2012 Olympic Games and were a real show-stopper at last year's Fun Day.

PETS IN PRACTISE

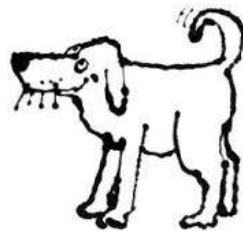
Pet Problems Solved
& Dog Training Offered



Bring Your Dog to the Fun Day

Pets in Practise is once again running a dog show at the Fun Day. Register on the day at the Pets in Practise stall, no later than ten minutes before your chosen event, to enter your dog in any of six fun categories. This year we are looking for:

- ♥ Best Puppy (under 12 months) – 2pm
- ♥ Best Child Handler (16 years and under) – 2:30pm
- ♥ Waggiest Tail – 3pm
- ♥ Prettiest Female Dog – 3:30pm
- ♥ Most Handsome Male Dog – 4pm
- ♥ Best Veteran (8 years and over) – 4:30pm



Entries cost just £2 and all proceeds will go to Stokenchurch Dog Rescue. For other queries, call 9836470 / 07843 559441, or email: info@petsinpractise.co.uk

And on into the evening with:

MORTIMERMUSIC^{live}

Queen II with support from local discovery **Nicolette Street**

Purchase your tickets for the Mortimer Music Live event in the Main Marquee from 7.30pm- 11pm. There will be a licensed bar and food. Tickets are **£12 on the door** (subject to availability) or only **£10 in advance** from Dad's Shop, Mortimer Post Office, Budgens, Wellers The Fruit Shop in Burghfield and at www.mortimermusiclive.co.uk



Calling all children...

Please read the following in your best pirate voice ☺



Bothersome Buccaneers Set To Cause Mayhem in Mortimer. Arrrr!

Avast ye land-lubbers! Drop anchor at 'Treasure Island' in the Mortimer Fun Day and join in the pirate pranks. Ye'll find us near the inflatables, up to no good I be sure! If ye dress in yer best pirate finery ye can claim yer looted lolly (until stocks be fully plundered)! Write out yer favourite pirate joke, bring it along wit' ye and we'll stick it up.

Why are pirates called pirates? - Because they arrrr!

Ye can chance yer hand at 'Captain Squawk's Lucky Shuffle', double yer doubloons on 'Scurvy Jack's Fruit Machine' and see if ye can pick the winnin' 'peg-leg'. For a chance to win Captain 'Dog Gone' Dog (the meanest scourge o' the seven seas to ever set sail on Foudry Brook), follow the clues in the Treasure Hunt!

What's more, why don't ye 'ave a go at the colouring competition me hearties? http://www.mortimervillage.org.uk/Fun_Day/Kids_zone.htm marks the spot.

Bring yer snivellin', hornswagglin' elders with ye if ye must, but don't ye go lettin' them at the ship's grog unless they wants to be fed to the fish! If they show willin' by donnin' their pirate clothes, they too can be havin' a lolly, if they haven't already been pillaged.

For further information, please contact Lynn Hannawin (AKA pirate Lobster Legs O'Jellyfish) on 9332577 or lynn@hannawin.com. If you want to know your pirate name too, visit http://www.mortimervillage.org.uk/Fun_Day/Kids_zone.htm

Are you feeling lucky?

Two of our sponsors have got together to bring one lucky household a windfall of £100 cash! All you have to do is bring your JULY issue of the VILLAGE EYE to the SPRATLEY'S beach at the Fun Day and register your copy. You never know; the lucky winner may be YOU!

MVP thanks the many churches, schools and other organisations who lend tables, chairs and other equipment.

MVP thanks **Nick Collins** for the loan of his van for the logistics team to move the many pieces of equipment for the Fun Day.



MVP thanks **Mortimer BP Scout Group** for their assistance including car parking.

Finally **MVP would like to say thank you to everyone** who helps on the day and on the many days leading up to it, from the people running stalls to those behind the scenes emptying bins and putting up gazebos; we really could not put on this event without you. And most of all, our thanks to each and every one of you who come to support this event whatever the weather.

Our Sponsors

MVP couldn't hold this event without the support of our sponsors who enable us to create an affordable family event with activity prices kept as low as possible, and of course we are unique in the area in bringing you such a large event that costs absolutely nothing to enjoy!

De Vere Venues, Wokefield Park, our local mansion house hotel with excellent leisure facilities and a US PGA-standard 7,000-yard championship golf course, has had a long tradition in supporting MVP in our activities within our community. Visit

www.deverevenues.co.uk , 0871 222 4828 or wokefield@deverevenues.co.uk for more information.



Unique Outdoors (a trading name for Graham Robb Associates), is based at Wokefield Park and uses the outdoors for training and development. They provide a range of activities including archery, woodland laser combat, climbing, survival skills and an amazing high ropes course for parties or corporate events. What a

brilliant idea for a party with a difference for your teenager, not to mention terrific team building ideas for your businesses. This year Unique Outdoors is bringing along their own ZORBs for you all to try. For more information about parties, activities or corporate events go to www.uniqueoutdoors.co.uk, call 933 1806 or email uniqueoutdoors@gra.uk.com.



TRIANGLE TRAVEL

has supported our event for many years. This year they will be sponsoring the PA system. Rob and his team are pleased to see you at their shop on West End Road at any time to talk about your holiday needs. Call 0844 854 6674 or visit www.triangletravel.co.uk.

Rachel Loubser, our village post mistress will be in Market Row selling a selection of delightful gifts and cards available in her shop. Please do support your local postmistress as she is a valuable asset to our community. Rachel is sponsoring the SHINFIELD SHAMBLES.



Spratley's, the local, fifth generation family run car sales, service and MOT garage has supported the Mortimer Fun Day for many years. Spratley's is sponsoring both the MAIN MARQUEE and the LUCKY PROGRAMME again this year and they are also delighted to announce the return of their famous "beach" which offers a free oasis of play and relaxation to children and adults alike. You'll find the beach next to the funky Spratley's Autocare car; you know, the one wearing the sunglasses!

Village Eye. A Fun Day would be no fun without people, and Village Eye has for the past five years very kindly donated the centre pages of their July issue to ADVERTISE our event to over 11000 homes and businesses in the RG7 area and also as a PROGRAMME for the day. In addition, all the unique design and colourful artwork for the posters and banners for the Fun Day are created by them. Visit www.villageeye.co.uk to learn more about Village Eye.



Budgens is a long time supporter of many MVP events and we are delighted that they are introducing us to many of their suppliers in our dedicated food hall this year. From Butcher to Baker, pop along and visit to give your tastebuds a treat. Budgens shop opening hours are: 7am to 9pm Monday to Saturday and 10am to 4pm on Sunday. This year Budgens is the sponsor of our INFLATABLES.

Dianne and Richard will once again be taking photos of your happy moments at our event. Pop along to their stall or stop them if you would like them to take a picture, or to find out more of what they offer at their studio. Do ask them especially about their excellent bespoke framing service. They are located near Spratley's. 933 2098 or 07799 133355. Dara Portraits is sponsoring our headline arena event, THE WELSH AXEMEN.



has been in Burghfield since 1998 and their experienced team is always delighted to speak to you about all your property needs, whether they be selling, renting, buying, letting or even new homes, conveyancing and financial services. Well located on the Reading Road, Burghfield, please feel free to pop in when passing. For more details visit www.davistate.com or telephone 983 1201. Davis Tate is once again supporting the Fun Day by sponsoring the exciting CHILDREN'S EVENTS including Captain 'Dog Gone' Dog's PIRATE TREASURE HUNT!



Reading Calor Centre. Now established as a firm favourite at the Fun Day, the Calor Bear and his team will again be in charge of the WELLY WANGING. This year we have a larger stall to accommodate all you champion welly wangers out there, so see if you can fling your wellies even further than last year.

New to Mortimer is the CALOR COOK OFF. For all those who think they are the tops when it comes to cooking the best barbecue burger, come and prove it to win a fabulous prize!

Calor has a depot and showroom behind Mortimer Station. Pop in to speak to the friendly staff about all your gas requirements. Their showroom has a good range of gas products, from gas cookers to heaters and barbecues. For more details on all that Calor has to offer please go to www.calor.co.uk or call 933 2363. Calor is sponsoring the READING SCOTTISH PIPE BAND this year.

IF YOU CONTACT ANY OF THE ABOVE PLEASE DO TELL THEM YOU SAW THEIR DETAILS IN THE MVP FUN DAY NEWSLETTER!

Community Led Plan



Now that the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) questionnaire stage has concluded it is time to turn our thoughts to all the other things in the village that it does not address, such as leisure and social activities, use of public open spaces, sports activities, communication etc.

Statfield Mortimer Parish Council has asked MVP to lead this initiative but we would very much like more people to join us in this task. Once a full team is in place we will hold a public meeting to gather the opinions of our community. If you would like to be part of the steering group please contact Rebecca Barker on 933 2008 or bbarkerdg@sky.com. We would particularly like to hear from people who have business or service connections within the village and those who have an interest in multiple sport and leisure activities.

Community led plan – Public Meeting

A date for your diary – TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 7:30-9:30 at St Johns Village Hall. Come along and have your say about all things Mortimer.

Heartstart – Free CPR Training

It is a while since MVP organised a Heartstart course for the village. These are 2½ hour free courses provided by Bryan Vowell of Tadley First Responders, which teach you how to cope calmly with a collapsed person and keep them going using CPR until paramedics arrive.



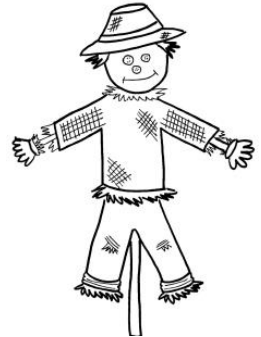
Over 100 people in Mortimer have attended one of these courses organised by MVP. Mortimer Scouts kindly allow us to run this free of charge in their hut because it is for the benefit of the village. The only available evening is a Friday but it is also possible to have one in the mornings - say 9:30 start. MVP is thinking of booking one for the autumn. If you are interested, please email danusia@morsley.me.uk saying whether you would prefer a Friday evening or a morning session. There need to be 20 people to make it worth running.



Mortimer Scarecrow Trail Walt's Wonders! Walt's Whats?

'Walt's Wonders' is the theme for this year Scarecrow Trail and can include characters from Mickey Mouse to Mary Poppins and Wall-E to The Incredibles.

The Scarecrow Trail will take place over the autumn half term holiday and there will be the chance to win one of three £75.00 prizes. The final date for entries is Tuesday 29th September 2015 but we thought that we would let you know about it now in case you need a project for the summer.



To reserve your favourite Disney/Pixar character, complete an entry form and pay the £10.00 entry fee. Entry forms will be available at the Fun Day from the MVP Information tent, or online from 20th July on the Mortimer Scarecrow Trail Facebook page, or on the MVP website:

www.mortimervillage.org.uk. Don't forget that duplicate characters are not allowed, so get your entry in early. For further information contact Lynn Hannawin on 9332577 or lynn@hannawin.com.

Go on, build a scarecrow and join in the fun!

Mortimer Pantomime

Fee-Fi-Fo-Fum... I smell the scent of a pantomime. Last year Pyramid Productions left some magic beans behind so they are returning AND their performances have grown. This year they will be putting on 3 shows of Jack and the Beanstalk. Put Saturday 19th December in your diary now; more information will follow after the summer.

Santa's Grotto

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 4:00 pm on Saturday 5th December. Santa's elves are busy organising art activities for the children and craft stalls. There will also be tasty snacks for sale. Look out for more details soon.

Recent MVP Events

MVP AGM – 21st March 2015

This year's AGM was a very well-attended event; the Methodist Church Hall was quite packed. No doubt this was due to the provision of lots of free cake and wonderful choral entertainment from the Hurst Singers rather than any great fascination with the speech by the outgoing chairman, Danusia Morsley!

After a brief review of the year's events, she presented the MVP Queen's Award for Voluntary Service badges to 27 people who have contributed to the work of MVP. A £500 cheque from MVP towards the cost of digitising Mortimer Local History Group's extensive archives was presented to their chairman, Peter Stone. When this project is complete the public will be able to access the old records, maps and photographs.

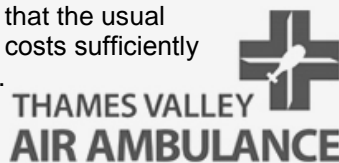
The new MVP chairman is Doug Overett and vice-chairman is Natasha O'Brien.

Miss Caledonia



Always looking for ways to support the local community, MVP hosted another high quality travelling theatre production at St Johns Hall on 6th May. The award-winning play, "Miss Caledonia", played to an audience of 96 on the evening, which also saw all profits from this enthralling event donated to our local Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust.

This charity event was only made possible when Farnham Maltings, a group who connect villages with rural touring productions, chose MVP to collaborate with in a pioneering live theatre project which saw the production streamed simultaneously online. Taking part in this ground breaking project meant that the usual production fees were waived, lowering MVP's overhead costs sufficiently to run the event as a charity fundraiser for the community. Over £700 was raised through admission and raffle tickets.



Back by popular demand, MVP is pleased to announce we will again play host to Farnham Maltings' next touring production. "The Iranian Feast" comes to St Johns Hall, Mortimer on 5th March 2016. This part thriller, part cookery lesson is a play with food from the heart of Persia. For more details email Boxoffice@mortimervillage.org.uk to be kept up to date with developments.



Village Spring Clean

The MVP Village Spring Clean on 21st March was a great success: 24 families and groups braved the weather to collect rubbish from our verges, footpaths and public areas. A huge mound was amassed opposite The Horse & Groom, which WBC then took away. Obviously it would be wonderful if everyone stopped littering and dumping things in the woods. As it is unlikely that utopia will arrive by next spring, look out for notices about next year's spring clean and put it in your diary.

Other Local News

MVP Lunch Club Needs Sponsors!



Our lunch club for the elderly people in our community has been running twice a month for the past five years. This has been supported by DeVere Venues, ISS, (St Mary's school caterers) and Budgens. With their help we have provided nourishing meals, good company and lots of laughter.

Sadly, DeVere is no longer in a position to support us, so I am turning to you, the people of our community, to show how much we value and appreciate our elderly people by asking if

individuals/small businesses/large businesses would like to sponsor our soup once a year. We believe that an annual £15 donation, paid through Greenham Common Find Me a Grant match funding scheme, would provide a simple meal for our lunch club members; the more sponsors, the more meals. If you or your company might be able to support us, please contact Rebecca Barker on 933 2008 or bbarkerdg@sky.com. Of course, if there is a company that would like to sponsor all 11 sessions, we would love to hear from you.

Burghfield and Mortimer Volunteer Bureau 40th Anniversary

The Burghfield and Mortimer Volunteer Bureau was founded 40 years ago and its aims were to provide transport for people of Burghfield, Mortimer and the surrounding villages who do not have access to or cannot use public transport to take them to medical and related appointments.

The office in Burghfield Methodist Church is open every weekday from 9:30am to 11:30am when the phone line is open to take requests for transport to hospitals, doctors' surgeries, dentists and opticians. Volunteer drivers use their own cars and receive a mileage allowance to cover the cost of fuel, calculated by the mileage from and to their own home.

The Bureau is assisted by a grant from the West Berkshire Council, but the most important donations are those from people using the service who are asked to make a realistic contribution.

We urgently need new drivers so if you can help in any way, please call 983 1814.



Part Time Firefighters Needed

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue service is recruiting part time firefighters in Mortimer. There is a shortage of firefighters for Mortimer, so this is a real chance to put something back into the village. Firefighters come in all shapes and sizes, you just need to be over 18, fit and healthy, and must be able to respond to the station within 6 minutes if a call comes in.

If you would like to know more please talk to us at the Fun Day, come along to the station on any Monday 6:30-9:30pm, or visit www.rbfrs.co.uk.



Mortimer West End Family Treasure Trail and Woodland Walk.

Sunday 12th July 2015, 10:30am – 1:00pm
£5 per entry for a team of up to four people (and any pets).

Basingstoke
Festival
2015

As part of Basingstoke Festival 2015, enjoy a walk through the woodland of Mortimer West End, starting and finishing at the Village Hall. Follow the clues and solve the puzzles to win the prize. There are even some treats along the way! Tea, coffee, soft drinks and home-made cakes will be awaiting you at the finish. Teams can start at any time. A stroll of the route takes about an hour.

Make a Difference, Become an MVP Volunteer.

Join us to make Mortimer GREAT! There are lots of opportunities for you to give a little back to this amazing village. MVP is the driving force behind lots of village events and all are run by volunteers. It could be as little as a few hours a year to a few hours a month. Email us now at volunteer@mortimervillage.org.uk to find out how you can make a difference.

For those who can give a little more time, perhaps a few hours a month, why not attend our member meetings? MVP volunteers meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the Methodist Hall, Mortimer from 7.30pm where topical village issues and up-coming events are discussed. If you would like to attend our meetings, contact Lynn Hannawin (Lynn@i-next.co.uk) for more details.

Mortimer Past & Present

Historical Fairs

The name of The Fairground, where we hold Mortimer Fun Day and many other events, tells us it is where the old fairs used to be held. However, prior to the 1802 Enclosure Commission (which set aside that 20 acres of common as a Fair Ground) fairs were held on the other side of the road in fields behind the Horse & Groom.

Fairs were held in April and November each year. The Mortimer Horse & Welsh Cattle Fair in November saw up to forty-five thousand animals brought into the village. Drovers from Wales and the West Country walked their cattle, horses and geese into the village along Welshman's Road.



Something more like the fairs we are used to today was the Mortimer Revel held on Whitsun Thursday near the Horse & Groom with all manner of stalls and entertainments. Some of the activities were, however, rather more violent than we have at the Fun Day. Prizes of silver-laced hats were on offer for the man who broke the most heads playing at cudgels or backsword in the 1770s and 80s. An early game of cricket in 1801 is recorded with batsmen scoring notches rather than runs.

MVP Contact Details

Chairman	Doug Overett doug.overett@gmail.com 933 3285
Vice-chairman	Natasha O'Brien Natasha@obrien.org.uk 996 2657
Secretary	Lynn Hannawin lynn@i-next.co.uk 933 2577
Treasurer	Michelle Goulding meesh.goulding@gmail.com
Affiliates Secretary	Julie Carter juliecarter396@btinternet.com

*All MVP meetings are open to participation from anyone, all we ask is that you are interested in making Mortimer a vibrant and fun place to live. We are fortunate to have many who regularly work with MVP on particular projects such as the website, Facebook page, looking after our equipment or helping to organise our annual events. You are most welcome regardless of how much or little time you have to give. **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.

