Mortimer Village Partnership Newsletter



October 2015

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



The Queen's Av for Voluntary Service

So Much More Still to Come in 2015...

Just as it seemed summer had finished early, the sun came out, there was the sound of cricket on the Fairground and the smell of barbecues drifted across the village. This may now all be behind us, but the MVP is gearing up for Autumn as our thoughts turn to family walks around the village, wrapping up warm, searching for scarecrows and, dare I say it, even the Christmas pantomime and Santa's Grotto are in the final stages of planning.

It sometimes seems that we forget to enjoy the "now" and are always looking towards the next thing. In this edition of our newsletter you will see details of many forthcoming events and, with new members joining us, I am sure this will mean new ideas to deliver our objective of "enriching village life". Do check the MVP website, which provides a useful calendar of important local diary dates as well as details of the many affiliated clubs and societies, from gardening to films, and amateur dramatics to history.

Doug Overett MVP Chairman

Admin / Book-Keeping Help Required

MVP is seeking a keen individual to help us with some general administration such as paying in cheques, book-keeping and collecting receipts. This is a volunteer role and would suit someone in the village who is able to visit the local bank during office hours. We expect it will take up no more than a couple of hours a month. If you can help us, or to find out more about it first, please email doug.overett@gmail.com.

MVP Affiliate News

The Burghfield Camera Club (www.burghfieldcameraclub.co.uk)

The *BCC* needs you!! Would you like to take better photos or are you an experienced photographer? In either case, why not join *Burghfield Camera Club* to learn how to improve your skills, or come along and share your knowledge. We are a friendly group who normally meet on Thursday evenings (7:45pm) at St Oswald's Church Hall, Abbey Park, Burghfield Common. RG7 3HQ.



We run an exciting programme of activities which includes external speakers giving presentations on a wide range of topics, practical evenings as well as both internal and external competitions. The 2015/16 season starts on Thursday 3rd September, and we look forward to seeing you.

Mortimer Cricket Club (www.mortimercc.org.uk)



The Club celebrated its 125th Anniversary this year with a very successful fund raising programme, which saw the return of the popular Wine Night, a Race Night and the annual 6-a-Side Competition all being well-attended. The response to these events was tremendous and, with some additional donations from supporters in the village, the Club able to buy not only a mobile practice net but also a new bowling machine. Both of these have already been well

used by the adult and youth members of the Club.

The Club has continued to run its youth training on Sunday mornings, which started indoors in January and moved outdoors with the better weather until the end of September. The new net and bowling machine have made the coaching facilities even better and the extra training facilities have paid off for the adult teams as well, while the Sunday XI experienced a largely successful time, the Mid-Week XI ended the season as Runners-Up in Division 3 of the Reading Mid-Week League and will be promoted to Division 2 next season.

There is still more to come this year, as there will be a Black Tie Ball at the Old Mill in Aldermaston on October 31st to celebrate our 125th Anniversary, and (due to popular demand) another Wine Night is on the cards too! The Club is determined to keep up the fund-raising efforts and to further improve the facilities it has to offer.

Winter indoor nets (with bowling machine) will begin on the second Sunday in January at the Willink Sports Centre, all welcome, whatever your age or standard of play. The Club has a new website too: www.mortimercc.org.uk and details of events etc. can be found there. Alternatively if you would like to come to nets, the 125th Anniversary Ball or find out anything about the Club, then please contact Ian on 07826 504425 or Adrian on 077 1000 6628.

Mortimer Film Club (www.mortimervillage.org.uk)



Mortimer Film Club is a membership organisation which shows films across a wide range of genres, including foreign subtitled, black & white classics and independents in the Mortimer Community Centre on the third Wednesday of each month. Please contact us through the Mortimer Village website listed above if you are interested in joining us.

Our forthcoming attractions include Helen Mirren in "Woman In Gold" (21st October), Jack Nicholson in "Chinatown" (18th November), the original version of "Death At A Funeral" (16th December), Oscar winning Polish drama "Ida" (20th January), and the four times Oscar nominated "Beasts Of The Southern Wild" (17th February).

Guiding in Mortimer

This year Guiding in Mortimer has seen lots of change, and yet, at the same time, things have stayed the same.



We are celebrating (with our fellow volunteers in Burghfield)

the continued commitment of the amazing women who run our Units. We have awards for two Leaders who have been with us for 5 years, five Leaders who have been with us for 10 years and one Leader is receiving her 30 year award.

With Rainbows and Guides having new Leadership teams and a new Assistant Leader in Brownies we are feeling the wind of change, yet we are still delivering a programme of fun, challenging activities for our girls with regular weekly meetings, trips out and both a Christmas Disco and sleepover planned.

Lunch Club



Tired of your own company and would like to get out and meet people? Mortimer Lunch Club for the elderly people of our community meets twice a month on a Thursday for a simple meal and an opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones. We organise trips from time to time too: our latest was lunch on the River Thames. Don't let a lack of transport stop you, as this can be arranged. Call Cindy Kimber on 01189 882676.

Lunch Club Volunteers Wanted

We are looking for volunteers to join our friendly team that can commit to helping out at Lunch Club on either monthly or twice monthly on a regular basis. No experience needed, just the willingness to help and the interest in meeting a great group of people. Please call or email Rebecca Barker 9332008 or bbarkerdg11@gmail.com

Mortimer Dramatic Society



Beyond A Joke - A Comedy by Derek Benfield 23rd, 24th, & 30th, 31st October 2015. All Tickets £9.00.

St. John's Hall 22 West End Road, RG7 3TF

This light-hearted English comedy is set in a semi-rural garden and house of a bank manager and his wife, Andrew and Jane, who believe their house is stigmatised with bad luck following a series of unfortunate accidents that have happened during their tenancy.

Living with them is their daughter, Sally, whose boyfriend, Geoff, visits regularly at weekends. It's during one of these visits that Geoff learns of some of the accidents... and draws the wrong conclusions! So a classic comedy twist of mistaken identity ensues.

The confusion is further compounded by the introduction of new characters: the arrival of Jane's sister, Sarah; an introductory visit by the new local vicar; and Geoff's parents, Edgar & Audrey, who pop in whilst in the area.

This delightful British comedy has plenty of laughs and has been enjoyed by audiences of amateur theatre all over the English-speaking world.

The comedy is written by Derek Benfield, a familiar face to British TV viewers as an actor in "Brothers" (1970s) and as Hetty Wainthropp's husband in the BBC's "Hetty Wainthropp Investigates" (1990s).

Book your tickets at www.mortimer-dramatic.org or 0119 66 2206 / 0778 533 3321.



1st Ufton Nervet Scout Group Activities

It was a busy Summer Term for the whole Group. A very successful Family Camp was held in June with over 100 campers joining in the fun activities – we are already looking forward to next year!

The Scouts have been on an "Incident Hike" on Greenham Common, sailing, on a "Chip Hike", and attended Summer Camp in the New Forest in August. We also had a visit from ShelterBox, a charity that provides emergency shelter to communities around the world. Scouts also spent the night in ShelterBox cardboard boxes to see what it was like.

Beavers visited the Padworth Recycling Centre to learn about recycling, the wind turbine in Reading and went on Katacanoes.

Cubs built dens in the woods, went pond dipping, grass sledging and had a sleepover and a cookout.

The final evening of the term saw a rain-soaked "It's a Knockout". Lots of badges were awarded, along with Chief Scout Gold and bronze awards, and the Chairman Cup was presented for helping in the community. The whole Group achieved their Project Africa badges learning about the African continent.

South Berks Concert Band – We Need Your Vote! (www.skiptongrg.co.uk)



Following the positive response from the Mortimer Fun Day where we offered the opportunity to have a go at playing different musical instruments, we felt it would benefit the children of the community if we offered a free structured musical workshop day in Mortimer. We will provide instruments for the children to try, suitable for a whole range of ages.

To get this event off the ground we have applied and been shortlisted for a grant through the Skipton Building Society Grassroots Giving initiative. In order to fairly allocate the funds, Skipton Building Society wants the public to tell them who they would like to receive the funding. To be in with a chance of receiving the grant we now need your votes. Please support us if you would like us to be able to put this event on for you, your family or friends.

Our profile and project plan, along with all the other shortlisted applicants, is on the Grassroots Giving website, www.skiptongrg.co.uk, and this is where you will be able to place your vote for South Berks Concert Band. It's a quick, simple click of the button to vote. Look under the South East region to find South Berks Concert Band - just click through to our profile and click the "vote now" button on the page. We do hope you agree that this is a worthwhile event for the children of our community. Do tell your friends, relatives and work colleagues about the event and ask them to vote. Remember, that extra vote could be the one that enables SBCB to give the children of Mortimer the opportunity they deserve to experience playing a musical instrument for themselves.

Our website is <u>www.southberksmusic.org.uk</u>, follow us on Facebook <u>www.facebook.com/southberksconcertband</u> or on Twitter: @SBCBMusic

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Mortimer West End Village Hall Quiz Night

On Saturday 10th October at 7:30pm Mortimer West End Village Hall will be holding a quiz night. Tickets are £8.50, which includes a ploughman's supper, and are available from Beryl Donnelly (0118 933 2913) or Virginia Bray (<u>virginia.bray@gmail.com</u>). Please bring your own drinks and snacks.



TiM (www.togetherinmission.org.uk)

Christmas TiME with TiM

TiM is again looking forward to organising this year's Village Carol Concert which will be held by the Community Centre at the Mortimer Fairground on Saturday 12th December at 5.00pm.



TiM at Mortimer Fun Day

TiM provided the Pop Up Café event services for the Mortimer Fun Day which was a great success. Do you remember how hot it was – we ran out of Ice Pops!

Café B has volunteers who come across from Mortimer and surrounding villages. New volunteers are always welcome. Please contact Emma at emma@cafeb.org.uk

Pub Lunches for Mortimer Gentlemen

Any gentlemen out there who would like to join our regular 'Pie & Pint' at The Horse & Groom can get in contact with TiM Friends ANYTIME to join us on 07778 911184 or email aimee@togetherinmission.org.uk

TiM-CAN (Community Action Network)

The TiM-CAN team has been in contact with West Berkshire Council's Social Care Information Team and the new Volunteering Centre West Berkshire's Village Agent for Mortimer. Our aim is to better share information and work together more closely. For information visit www.togetherinmission.org.uk or email can@togetherinmission.org.uk

School Pastors

Our volunteer School Pastor Team continues to go from strength to strength. Now locally serving Mortimer's pupils in The Willink School, the team has expanded the cover and expertise into new areas, including an extra Summer patrol to coincide with the Friday afternoon opening of Café B.

If you feel you could help the youngsters of your area and surrounding areas by being ready to listen, to help and to care then please contact Midge Robinson at midge@togetherinmission.org.uk



Mortimer 2012 W.I.

Since the last MVP Newsletter, Mortimer 2012 WI has gone from strength to strength.

On 9th April the WI Centenary Baton arrived at Sulhampstead Village Hall in a vintage motor car and we all celebrated 100 years of the WI with afternoon tea.

In May we held an open meeting when Brigadier Michael Aris told us all about the life of the Duke of Wellington and Stratfield Saye House. We had lots of visitors and everyone enjoyed it very much.

Our speakers are extremely varied. In August we had a lovely lady called Julia Philipson speaking about the Alexander Devine Children's Hospice. She was extremely moving and we came away wanting to do all we could to help them get this project off the ground.

Our next meetings cover beekeeping, local history and the Galapagos Islands. There's always something new as well as our usual book, crafts and walking groups, and of course we take part in MVP activities, like the Fun Day and Scarecrow Trail.

The Mortimer Fun Day lived up to its name for us again this year, but for different reasons; last year we had the rain to contend with, but this year it was hot, sunny and very windy. We had again decided to go with a gazebo, so the first challenge was to erect it. Ably assisted by our WI husbands fighting against the wind, we eventually put it up and our tables were soon groaning under the weight of all the cakes donated by our members! Unfortunately the wind had not yet finished with us and one of the poles bent under the strain. However, one of our menfolk was on a nearby stand and came to our assistance with his mallet. We had another thoroughly enjoyable day, sold all our cakes and will be back again next year with our trusty gazebo, which now has a new leg.

Next on the calendar is the Scarecrow Trail which we are entering for the third time this year. Last year we created Pinocchio. One very clever WI husband made his frame, a talented member created and painted his head and face, and the rest of us sourced and made his clothes. We instantly fell in love with him and decided that he was just too good to consign to the back of a garage, and anyway he was our little boy, so when Julia from the Hospice came to talk to us we offered him to her, thinking that perhaps he could be auctioned to raise funds or kept to hang in a play room, but no; they loved him as much as us and wanted to use him immediately, so the nurses now take him along when visiting sick children. I am sure it would please Geppetto very much indeed!

Upcoming MVP Events

Santa's Grotto



Ho ho ho! Santa will be visiting the children of Mortimer at St John's Hall on Saturday 5th December from noon until 5pm. Tickets will be £4.00 per child and they go on sale after the Scarecrow Trail has finished, so look out on our Facebook page and noticeboards for further information. We will have Dara Portraits available to take your child's picture with Santa, and there will be a variety of craft stalls so you can purchase your Christmas gifts whilst enjoying a glass of mulled wine or a lovely cuppa.

Finally, Santa would love to hear from you if you can spare a couple of hours on the day to volunteer, so please get in touch by emailing elves@mortimervillage.org.uk.

Scarecrow Trail - Walt's Wonders



Get on your walking shoes, jump on your bike or hop on your skateboard as the Scarecrow Trail returns with this year's Autumn Half Term holiday. Running from Saturday 24th October to 4pm on Sunday 1st November inclusive, the scarecrows will be on show daily from 9am to dusk each day.

This year's theme, Walt's Wonders, includes characters from 80 years' worth of Disney/Pixar films. As in previous years, it will be an excellent way of keeping the kids – both small and big alike – entertained during the half term week. Once again, trail followers will be able to vote for their choice of scarecrow in each of three categories: children's favourite, adult's favourite and funniest. There will also be the traditional trail competition with a chance for trail followers to win £50.00! For the second year running there will be a "Just For Fun" quiz, in which you can test your knowledge of the Disney/Pixar films and characters. Make sure you are armed with paper and pen!

Costing just £1, trail maps will be available in Budgens and Dads Shop from Thursday 22nd October. Budgens is once again kindly providing a voucher with each trail map purchased that can be exchanged for selected products in the shop. Terms and conditions apply.

If you wish to be amongst the first to know the winners of this year's trail, then come along to the Community Centre on Sunday 1st November from 6 – 6.30pm.

As in previous years, our thanks go to our sponsors and supporters: the scarecrow makers; Budgens; Dads Shop; IDN Ltd; Parkers; Pictures Everywhere; Spratleys; Mortimer Library; Mortimer Café; The Horse and Groom; The Turners Arms and The Victoria Arms, all of whom help to make the Scarecrow Trail an enjoyable, viable and affordable community event.



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

Fee-fi-fo-fum - It's Time To Book Your Panto Fun!

In association with MVP, London based Pyramid Productions are returning to St John's Hall, Mortimer, on Saturday 19th December, with their version of the popular Christmas pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk.

The MVP Panto Box office opens at 10am on 10th October with an "Early Bird Bonanza". All tickets booked between 10th and 18th October inclusive will enjoy savings of up to 18%. These discounted tickets will be just £6.50 for children and £9.50 for adults. From 19th October prices will rise to £8 for children (under 17 years) and £11 for adults.

Last year the panto tickets were in high demand and sold out in just 4 days, so to help satisfy demand MVP is pleased to announce there will an additional show this year. The three 90 minute productions will start at 1pm, 3pm and 5pm. Each performance includes a 15 minute interval.

To book tickets simply email boxoffice@mortimervillage.org.uk with the following information:

- 1) The number of tickets required for children and adults.
- 2) State which performance your family wants to attend 1pm, 3pm or 5pm.
 3) DON'T FORGET to include your 2nd choice show. This will save time should vour 1st choice already be sold out.

If you don't have access to email, you can call the Box Office on 0754 66 96 715. Note, you may need to leave a message but someone will get back to you. This phone line opens at 10am on the 10th October.

Looking forward to seeing you there for lots of booing and hissing, "He's behind you", "Oh no she didn't" and general panto fun!

If you can volunteer for a couple of hours to help us set up, run the event and provide general help where needed, please contact lynn@i-next.co.uk.

Sports Weekend

For the last few years Mortimer has held a popular Sports Weekend in mid-May for local people of all ages to try out something new. In order to hold this again in 2016 we are seeking a small team of 2 or 3 friends to help organise it. It will require a sports programme to be designed through liaison with local clubs, and administration to fill the available places. If this is something you could do for your community, or just for more information, please get in touch by emailing doug.overett@gmail.com.

Theatre - The Iranian Feast



Join us for The Iranian Feast - traditional Persian food prepared by Abbas, his wife and daughter with help from their friends and neighbours. Part thriller, part cookery lesson this is a story of a family working out how life will be in the future; one that is surprising, uplifting and a celebration of being alive. Going into the pot are fresh herbs, spices, sweet vegetables, and Eli's mother's secret ingredient.

MVP's latest visiting theatre production has been touring successfully since early 2013 and we have been lucky to bring this to Mortimer on Saturday 5th March 2016. Tickets will go on sale in the new year.

Recent MVP Events

Mortimer Fun Day

Around 6000 people from Mortimer and the surrounding area certainly did have a fun day this year! Again we were able to provide free entrance to the best day of the year and the crowds kept coming... and many stayed all day to enjoy top arena events The Welsh Axemen and the Reading Pipes & Drums. This year's display of classic cars was breath-taking, with everything from a Morris Minor to a Rolls Royce.

Everyone was kept fed with local sausages, hog roasts and Indian curries, whilst the MVP's own pop-up pub "Laney & Dick's" did a roaring trade all day. The MVP Fun Day Committee was delighted to provide the opportunity for so many local charities and clubs to raise money for, and awareness of, their activities, and we were also proud to be able to support so many local businesses.

So what now? Six years of Fun Days and the loaning of equipment to local organisations has begun to take its toll on much of it, so this year we intend to reinvest some funds in new marquees, fencing, bunting, etc so that we can bring a Fun Day to the village for many years to come. The only other thing we need is more volunteers! A big thank-you to the 100+ people who again helped us this year, but as always we need new people to help with the planning of FD 2016 to replace those who need a well-deserved rest! Please contact volunteer@mortimervillage.org.uk as soon as possible - we start our work again in November!

Other Local News

GUIDE DOGS WEEK: 3rd - 11th October 2015



Did you know:

- There are two million people in the UK living with sight loss?
- The guide dog service receives no government funding?
- · We rely on donations from individuals to continue our life-changing work?

Please help to support people living with sight loss in your local community by supporting Guide Dogs Week, 3rd -11th October 2015. Here are a couple of ideas to get you started, or you can think of something of your own.

Let's Glow Collect

Look out for a local collection on Tuesday 6th October and donate some coins, or organize an envelope collection in your school or workplace.

Let's Glow Friday

Be a part of Glow UK and dress in neon on Friday 9th October.

For more information please contact reading@guidedogs.org.uk or call 0845 372 7433.

Mortimer Wildlife Group

Please help make Mortimer hedgehog friendly. Hedgehogs are now classified as endangered, and the once popular prickly garden dweller will not be seen by our grandchildren if we do not act now. Small ways in which you can help their survival are:



- Ensure that your garden has a means of access. If you have a fenced boundary, put a hole the size of a CD in it, or lift your garden gate to leave a gap as hedgehogs can roam one mile every night and need unfettered access to gardens.
- Hedgehogs eat slugs, snails, beetles, worms and other insects; they are
 undoubtedly a gardeners' friend, so please encourage hedgehogs instead of
 poisoning them with slug pellets and pesticides.
- Create a wildlife friendly garden, including log piles, untouched areas and escape ramps in ponds.
- Check for sleeping hedgehogs in overgrown areas before strimming, check wood piles before burning and compost bins before spreading.
- If you spot wildlife harming litter, pick it up. This includes elastic bands, plastic can-holders and lids with holes in.
- Take great care when driving at dusk; traffic is one of the biggest threat to hedgehogs.
- Put out hedgehog food or meaty pet food, water (and/or lactose free milk), especially during dry spells or in Spring when Mums need easy pickings so they do not have to stray too far from their hoglets.
- If you find an injured, "sunbathing" or clumsy hedgehog, phone the nearest rescue, which in our case is Hedgehog Bottom on 01635 826 120.

For more information about hedgehogs you can visit www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk and www.britishhedgehogs.uk and www.briti

History Under Our Feet

I have been metal detecting now for over 30 years, it still never ceases to amaze me what we can find just under the surface of the soil we tread on. For anyone wanting to start up in the hobby there is a wide selection of metal detectors to suit almost any budget. Obviously the more expensive machines have added features that make for a more comfortable and efficient detecting experience, ranging from ultra-light machines to ones with Wi-Fi head phones. Once you have got your detector the next hurdle is to gain permission to detect on some land. There are clubs that you can join but there is generally a waiting list, so ideally you need to gain a permission or two for yourself.

I have been fortunate enough to have obtained permission from a couple of local land owners (I'm always on the lookout for new permissions if there are any landowners reading this!) and have had some really interesting finds, including Edward II silver hammered coins to modern day coinage. It's not only coins though; all sorts of metal

items can be, and are, found by detectorists, from Roman broaches to valuable present day jewellery. I've never been fortunate enough to have found either, but I live in hope!

If anyone is interested in starting up there is plenty of good advice on the internet, along with YouTube footage on detecting techniques and product trials. Finally, for anyone who may have been unfortunate enough to have lost a valuable ring, piece of jewellery or a set of keys in their garden, I offer a free finds service, so if you are local and know roughly where you lost the item, I will bring my detector along and see if I can find it! You can email me at terrysfreefindservice@gmail.com.

Mortimer Bonfire Night

The annual Mortimer Bonfire Night run by St John's School will be on Saturday 7th November in the field between Drury Lane and The Avenue, with gates open from 5pm. Tickets will be on sale soon from Budgens, Dads shop, Wellers, McColls and Mortimer Post Office. Kindly sponsored by Mortimer Auto Centre and Parkers.

Junior School Admissions

The admissions process for children to start junior school in September 2017 has now begun and applications should be made via West Berkshire Council by 15th January 2016. Children attending Mortimer St John's Infant School will automatically receive a copy of our School Prospectus and information. Parents with children at other schools can request a Prospectus from the school office by ringing 9332491 or by emailing office@msm.w-berks.sch.uk. We will be holding a number of admissions tours, details of which can be found on our website www.msm.westberks.dbprimary.com. Please contact Mrs Cole in the School Office for more information or with any questions.

MVP Contact Details

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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.

