

## Chairman's Report

It is with mixed feelings that today I am able to present my first Chairman's Report. Not because it hasn't been a very interesting and active year in our village and specifically with MVP activities but because England are currently playing Wales in the 6 Nations, so I should apologise for those of us who would dearly be watching that rather than listening to me.

Last year Danusia on stepping down from the Chair gave her recipe for success

### Recipe for the next year

#### Ingredients:

- **Time (more than 24 x 7 x 52)**
- **Volunteers (as many as possible)**
- **Ideas (grow on trees in Mortimer)**
- **A bit of money helps**

#### Method

- **Repeat everything from last year (only better)**
- **Add more events**
- **Start more clubs**
- **Find more volunteers**
- **Spread the partnership**
- **Keep smiling!**

During the past 12 months my approach has probably been one of personal survival and clearly with very limited number of people who give up their time so generously, we have to be realistic about how much we can take on and perhaps focus on making everything we do as good as it can be rather than doing more. Inevitably some things work better than others but on balance this year has again been an exceptional year to live in Mortimer if you want to engage in our community.

- Lunch Club continues to be a great success
- Sports weekend last year was disappointing with clubs being booked for other events
- Theatre trips to London
- Our 3 newsletters get bigger and better, FB has now broken 2000 members, website consistently averages 3000 user sessions per week
- 19 Affiliated groups - now 22 and now 27!
- Fun Day – was the biggest and best yet with the Welsh Axemen attracting in the region of 6000 people
- Scarecrow Trail 40 entries +1000 maps
- Panto – Jack & Beanstalk 3 performances of 100 tickets sell out
- Santa's Grotto – sell out
- Visiting Theatre Miss Caledonia & Iranian Feast

### Forthcoming Events

- Fun Day 2<sup>th</sup> July
- And again the Scarecrow Trail, Santas Grotto, Pantomime

Last year when we launched the new Logo and Strap line – Enriching Village Life – it gave clarity to the purpose of the MVP and if we look at the activities that I have highlighted, I believe this is something that we continue to deliver against.

On a sadder note, last year at our October Scarecrows Trail prize-giving event we thanked Danusia Morsley, one of the founders of the MVP and past Chairman, for her considerable vision enthusiasm as she resigned from the MVP. I am pleased to say that she of course remains a major source of knowledge and support of our ventures.

Whilst it is always difficult to recognise any individuals efforts, give the number of people who give very generously of their time, I would like to thank Natasha, Vice Chair, Lynn Secretary, Michelle Treasurer, Julie Affiliates Secretary for the enormous amount of work they do to make sure that every event happens and to that list I should also specifically mention Julia who's made a major contribution to every event.

Importantly we regularly stress that the purpose of the MVP is not as a fund raising organisation and therefore our aim is to be able run activities very much on a "not for profit" basis. Inevitably however with prudent accounting and budgeting from time to time we build a surplus beyond what would be considered to be necessary reserves.

This year we have invested funds in replacing and renewing equipment, primarily for the Fun Day but also available to our affiliate members. This has included Gazebos, Marquees, fencing etc to enable us to continue to produce one of the best days in the Mortimer annual calendar.

In addition it has been decided to donate funds to the Parish Council for a project related to the Fairground, which of course through the Fun Day the MVP is a major user. We have agreed to contribute to the cost of establishing a permanent power supply to the Fairground area which will then be available to all Fairground users via the SMPC.

Many of you will be aware of the need for St Johns Church to do some restoration work on the bells and Bell Frame. Bell ringing has been very much part of the Mortimer backdrop since 1896, when they were installed, therefore the MVP thought it appropriate and in keeping with our strap line to support the restoration and are delighted to present to the Mortimer Bell Ringers a cheque for £500 towards the project.

Lastly it gives me enormous pleasure to announce that as a continuation of the Heart Start courses that the MVP through Danusia & Chris Morsley have arranged over the last 4 years, in agreement with the Parish Council we intend to fund the provision of a Defibrillator to be located centrally within the village at a cost or around £2000.

All of this is made possible by the efforts of our volunteers. Since we first produced the MVP QAVS badge in 2014 we have now recognised 110 people in the QAVS book and we are delighted on this occasion to recognise the following for their contribution to "Enriching Village Life".

Robert Martin - Newsletter Editor / Fun Day

Hellen Baird – FD / Santas Grotto

Gemma Matthews – MVP Committee / Fun Day & Events

Caroline Edwards (Not attending) – Newsletter / Fun day

Marion Norton – Fund Raising in support of MVP

Lastly, can I thank the Hurst Singers who again will finish our event today with some entertainment after the AGM

Doug Overett

MVP Chairman