

Mortimer Village Partnership Newsletter



Mortimer Village Partnership
Enriching Village Life

February 2016

*All this and more available on
our website*

www.mortimervillage.org.uk



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

Keeping Mortimer Marvellous

The mild climate has already brought daffodils out in the gardens of Mortimer, and so far we have avoided the normal winter freeze. Many people have enjoyed the fantastic photographs of the village posted on our Facebook page in recent weeks, and many have taken advantage of the clement weather for a country walk across the fields and through the woods... and, I hope, avoided the worst of the rain!

Of course, we are all keen to keep our village looking beautiful, so in this edition of the MVP Newsletter you will see details of our annual Spring Clean, which this year we will link to the "Clean for the Queen" initiative; part of Her Majesty's 90th birthday celebrations.

You won't have missed the advertising for our next visiting theatre production "The Iranian Feast" on 5th March, which, based on current ticket sales, is already proving very popular.

Please do attend the MVP AGM on 12th July if you can. This will be more of an informal update with a cup of tea and a little light entertainment from the Hurst Singers, but is a great way to meet the MVP team and find out what we actually do!

As always, we invite new volunteers for the many activities that make our village such a great place to live. We particularly welcome anyone who wishes to be on the MVP Committee or the Fun Day Team, or both.

A goal for us all is simply keeping Mortimer marvellous through 2016 and beyond.

Doug Overett
MVP Chairman

1st Mortimer Brownies

Sign up for 1st Mortimer Brownies! Brownies are part of Girlguiding, aimed at 7-10 year olds. We enjoy games, craft, singing, challenges, cooking and lots more every week. To come and join in the fun, please sign up on our waiting list via the 'Parent' section of <http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/parents.aspx>.

Get signed up early to secure your daughter's space!

1st Mortimer Baden Powell Scout Group



The 1st Mortimer Group, founded in 1910, can rightly celebrate every single year, but a particularly fantastic and exciting year lies ahead for our Cubs and Scouts, as this year we celebrate 100 years of Cubs.

We have been set 100 challenges by our Headquarters Commissioner to complete by the end of the year. The challenges are grouped into five categories: Test your Skills, Be Creative, The Great Outdoors, Conservation and Thinking of Others. We will include such diverse activities as kite flying, magic tricks, story writing, map making, den building, energy saving, bird feeding, food bank, helping local charities and lots, lots more. The recent snow fall helped a great deal as one of the challenges was to build a snowman, although admittedly he was only 1 ft. tall!

The highlight of the year will be over the August Bank Holiday when 100s of Cubs from across the country will be attending the "Cuborree 2016" to be held in Marple, on the edge of the Peak District National Park; a once in a lifetime event for our Cubs and one they will never forget.

Watch out for us on the 12th March as we join in with the annual Mortimer Spring Clean, this year as part of the national "Clean For The Queen" initiative.

We also have great cause to celebrate another event which took place back in November last year. Our Life President, Mr Peter Johnson, who has been a member of the Group for over 80 years, was awarded *Chevalier* (Knight) of the *Légion d'Honneur* by the French government in recognition of brave and valiant service in the D-Day Landings. Peter was a Royal Marine Commando attached to 539 Flotilla RM, and was charged with landing the Green Howards on Gold Beach. After making four landings he navigated up the River Orme with senior commanders to Pegasus Bridge. Our heartfelt congratulations go out to Peter who has been a lifelong servant, not just to our Group, but to the community of Mortimer as a whole.



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

The 2015/2016 season of the Burghfield Camera Club is well under way. We have had several excellent evenings with external speakers, held an active portraiture workshop with local models and both internal and external judged competitions, including hosting the Southern Counties Photographic Federation.



We are always looking for new members, so why not join us 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. Visit our website (above) for further information.

Berkshire *Music & Arts*

(www.berksmusicandarts.org.uk)

is a not for profit organisation committed to raising funds to support, encourage and nurture the talent of young, local musicians, actors and writers. In particular, we help and support children who would not otherwise have access to private lessons. We believe that the benefit of developing children's creativity aids them in all areas of their lives.

Mortimer lays at the heart of our focus area, with the recent annual festival at Ufton Court and also Sulhamstead Abbots Church and Ufton Nervet Village Hall, held on the 31st January. We will be holding a Winners' Gala and fund raising quiz night later in the year. For more information on these events visit our website (above) or contact Hazel Reindorp on hazel@berksmusicandarts.org.uk.

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

The Club ended its 125th Anniversary year with a black tie ball at the Old Mill in Aldermaston, and it was able to reflect on a successful season on and off the field. During the year, the Club has added a new bowling machine to the outdoor net to improve its practice facilities and to help with the coaching of its young players.



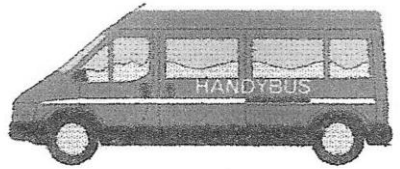
The Club has begun indoor winter nets at the Willink School on Sunday mornings. Adult nets start at 10am and children's cricket starts at 11am. Both finish at noon and run from January through to April. All are welcome, whatever your ability! Check out our website for details, or contact Adrian on 077 1000 6628 if you are interested.

The Club will be fielding a Sunday XI and a Mid-Week XI again in the coming season. The Mid-Week XI won promotion last season and will be playing in the 2nd Division of the Reading Mid-Week League. The ever-popular 6's Competition will again be held during the summer, as will the third annual game between the Club and the Mortimer Village Partnership for the Alan Thorpe Cup, won back by the Club last season.

Additionally, there will be a return of the popular Wine Night: details to be confirmed, so keep your eyes on our website as tickets will sell fast.

Burghfield & Mortimer Handybus

Welcome to YOUR community minibus service. The Burghfield and Mortimer Handybus is a 9/10 seater minibus modified to provide easy access, including low steps and a passenger lift to enable wheelchair bound passengers to board. The bus is provided by West Berkshire Council and operated by local volunteers to offer a service to those with limited mobility or who are unable to use, or don't have access to, public transport.



We operate around Burghfield, Mortimer, Sulhamstead and Ufton Nervet and we have a schedule of regular shopping trips as well as carrying passengers to social club meetings, the local cinema and outings to local places of interest. We currently make over 3,000 passenger trips per year but sometimes have empty seats available, so if you would like to take advantage of our service please talk to one of our Handybus Coordinators, Don or Phil.

Providing this valuable community service is dependent on volunteers, both drivers and escorts, and we are always in need of more help to meet the growing demand. Volunteers need no special skills, just a friendly caring outlook with a few hours to spare (per week, per fortnight or even per month), so if you would like to join a small band of friendly volunteers then we would like to hear from you.

For more information about using the Handybus or volunteering please call Don Harwood or Phil Church on 0118 983 6611.

Mortimer Netball Club (www.mortimernetballclub.com)



Mortimer Netball

Our 2015-2016 season is nearing the half way point with just one match having to be cancelled due to bad weather. Once again we're lucky enough to have four teams playing in the local Reading & District Netball League; Mortimer Sapphires, Mortimer Diamonds and Mortimer Rubies all play in the mid-week league and Mortimer Gems in the Saturday league. All of the teams have welcomed new players this season, but we're always looking for experienced players to join the club and welcome anyone over 18 to come along to our training sessions.

Mortimer Netball Club made its European debut last year when a team travelled to Spain to compete in the Netball Sevens tournament. It was a great success and we are entering a team again this year too. This season we are also fortunate enough to have a fantastic new sponsor. We're very proud to have been chosen by Elizabeth Kempson Hairdressing in Mortimer; thank you Elizabeth, we love our new dresses!

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

South Berks Concert Band

Your local wind band is celebrating 40 years of music making this year, so we have been looking through our archive and found some fascinating facts about our earliest links with Mortimer.



Does anyone remember the Fire Engine rally on the 10th & 11th September 1977? South Berks Concert Band played on both days of this weekend event. The archive also refers to the band rehearsing in the village sometime during the 1980s. If anyone remembers any more details then please get in touch. We are currently contacting previous Musical Directors and are also hoping to find some founder members who would like to join us in our end of year celebration.

Our 40th Year Concert Series will consist of four concerts, including two in Mortimer. One will include the World Première of a piece of music composed especially for South Berks Concert Band by the world famous British composer Philip Sparke. The first concert of the year will be on 9th April at Kennet Valley Free Church and we welcome all music lovers to join us as we explore our version of "Music through the Decades".

St John's PFA



Mortimer St John's School Parents & Friends Association is pleased to announce that The Vibe are returning to Mortimer for Band Night on the evening of Saturday 27th February 2016. The Vibe are a highly accomplished covers band playing a superb blend of pop, rock, soul, funk and disco covers from the great artists of today and yesterday. They last made Mortimer rock in 2014 at a sold out Band Night so don't delay, book the babysitter and snap up a ticket today! The night starts at 8pm and finishes at midnight. There will be a bar providing wine, ale and lager, plus opportunities to win prizes in our raffle and silent auction. Tickets are £13 per person and can be bought by contacting katrina.thomas@hotmail.co.uk.

SAVE THE DATE – Come and join in the springtime fun at Mortimer St John's School May Fair on Saturday 7th May. There will be children's entertainment, food hall, ice cream, face painting, Pimm's stall, games and much, much more. These two events are held to raise additional funding for Mortimer St John's Infant School, so please come along with some pennies and pounds to support your local school.

Mortimer 2012 W.I.

We continue our programme of seminars in the Community Centre from 7:30pm on Wednesday 2nd March, when Pat Wilson will give a presentation about flower arranging, and on Wednesday 6th April, when David Gregory will talk about the role of an NHS First Responder.



Together In Mission

TiM Friends continues to provide a much needed befriending service in the area. In the lead up to Christmas there was a surge in enquiries from potential clients interested in receiving a visit from one of our special volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering or would like a TiM Friend to visit, please contact Bev French on 07778 911183 or bev@togetherinmission.org.uk.



Café B has volunteers from Mortimer, Burghfield and further afield. New volunteers are especially welcome on Saturday mornings at the Burghfield Pavilion. Please contact Emma at emma@cafeb.org.uk.



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 the four times Oscar nominated "Beasts Of The Southern Wild" (17th February), Kevin Spacey, Julianne Moore & Dame Judi Dench in "The Shipping News" (16th March), the Oscar nominated (Best Motion Picture) "Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close" (20th April), WWI coming-of-age film "Testament of Youth" (18th May) and the BAFTA winning "Pride" (15th June).

Mortimer Toddlers (www.facebook.com/MortimerToddlers)

Calling all parents, grandparents and carers: Do you care for children aged five or under? Come along and join us for a range of fun activities at Mortimer Toddlers on Tuesday mornings, 9:30-11:30am at Mortimer Community Centre, opposite the Horse and Groom pub.



We are a non-profit group run by friendly local mothers on most weeks of the year, including holiday time. Each session is £2 and includes a snack and a drink for the child, and hot drinks and often a slice of cake to keep the adults going! We have lots of wonderful toys for the children to play with, including a bouncy castle, an activity table and a special area which the young babies can enjoy. For further details and to keep up-to-date with events, please like our Facebook group (above).

MVP Support For Local Groups

Do you belong to a local interest/activity group? Could your organisation benefit from becoming an Affiliate for an annual fee of only £10?



MVP aims to promote cooperation and communication between organisations and raise awareness of affiliated groups in the village. The advantage of becoming an affiliate means that your group can benefit from increased publicity through this newsletter, the MVP Facebook page, the MVP web site, the MVP calendar and MVP noticeboard outside Budgens. You can also raise awareness of your organisation by becoming our 'club of the month', particularly useful if you have a specific event you would like to promote. Use of the MVP logo with your publicity is also permitted. We support affiliates by providing low cost photocopying and laminating, as well as lending equipment that we have bought over the years (subject to conditions) such as marquees, gazebos, bunting, flip charts, a money counting machine, fencing pins, display boards, tables, chairs, two-way radios...

Affiliated groups and contact details for 2016 are:

1st Mortimer Brownies	firstmortimerbrownies@hotmail.co.uk
1st Mortimer Scouts	neiljohnson@btinternet.com
1st Ufton Nerve Scouts	cathryn@uftonscouts.com
Berkshire Music & Arts	hazel@berksmusicandarts.org.uk
Burghfield & Mortimer Handybus	pichurch@btinternet.com
Mortimer Music Live (MML)	jaqsgrant@btinternet.com
Mortimer & District branch of the RNLI	j.r.bull@btinternet.com
Mortimer 2012 W.I	malelkin@aol.com
Mortimer Bellringers	petermacnaughtan@hotmail.com
Mortimer Dramatic Society	tshorrock@mrmerlin.com
Mortimer Film Club	pete.blagden@btinternet.com
Mortimer Gardening Club	wiremanjc@tiscali.co.uk
Mortimer Netball Club	joannesparrow@btinternet.com
Mortimer St Johns' PFA	katrina.thomas@hotmail.co.uk
Mortimer St Mary's PTA	heike@burnell.org
Mortimer West End Annual Show	melonybennett93@gmail.com
Mortimer West End Village Hall	mwevh@outlook.com
South Berks Concert Band	southberksconcertband@yahoo.com
St Mary's, Sulhamstead Abbots	pisumcorporum@btinternet.com
The Hurst Singers	mariatseasons@aol.com
Together in Mission (TiM)	info@togetherinmission.org.uk
Willink School PTA	Fiona@gnjones.co.uk

Upcoming MVP Events

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MVP AGM – Saturday 12th March

Once again we invite you to join us in the Community Centre at 4:30pm on Saturday 12th March for the MVP's Annual General Meeting. We will be giving out our volunteer awards, our donations to local causes and we will be entertained by the Hurst Singers whilst we enjoy a free cuppa and a slice of cake. Everyone is welcome and, of course, if you'd like to volunteer your time to the MVP committee then we'd love to hear from you. Please contact the MVP Chair Doug Overett at doug.overett@gmail.com.

Theatre: “The Iranian Feast” – Saturday 5th March



Following the sell-out success of our last two travelling theatre productions, MVP is delighted to welcome back Farnham Maltings touring theatre company on 5th March with their interactive play “The Iranian Feast”. We invite you to feast on traditional Persian food prepared by Abbas, his wife and daughter with help from their friends and neighbours.

Part thriller, part cookery lesson, set in modern day Tehran, this thought-provoking and topical work of contemporary British theatre is a story of a family working out how life will be in the future, and 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.

Saturday 5th March, 7:30pm (doors 7:20pm), St John's Hall, Mortimer.

Tickets are available online at www.mortimervillage.org.uk or by calling the Box Office on 0754 669 6715. Adults £15 / Concessions £12, or Adults £12 / Concessions £10 if booked before 7th February.

This event will not have a bar so please bring your own soft and alcoholic drinks.

Spring Clean 2016: Clean for the Queen – Saturday 12th March

Mortimer's annual spring clean coincides with the national “Clean for the Queen” campaign this year, which is aiming to get everyone involved in a giant litter pick for Her Majesty's 90th birthday! As usual, we are calling all Mortimer residents to come out and help with a mass litter-pick on Saturday 12th March from 2pm to 4pm. Come to the garden of the Horse & Groom between 2pm and 4pm to collect litter-picking equipment and to choose your route.



Mortimer Fun Day 2016

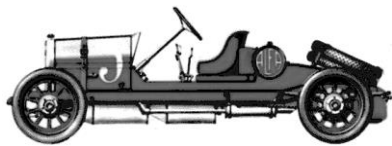
The Fun Day is the single most popular event in the Mortimer village calendar, attracting around 6000 visitors in 2015. Such an event doesn't just happen by magic; it requires a team of volunteers to dedicate varying amounts of their time for the benefit of our community. As with any team, we continually need to involve new recruits as existing volunteers move on or change responsibilities, or simply as contingency for the future.

A number of roles need to be filled this year, so if you have enjoyed the Fun Day in the past and wish for it to continue, or indeed if you have had any reason to criticise it (*Ed: surely not?!*), this is the perfect opportunity to get involved, to give something back and to steer the development of your Fun Day for years to come. Positions available are:

- **Quartermaster:** Work with team to record receipts and returns of borrowed items and co-ordinate the Service Tent on July 1st & 2nd only.
- **Project Manager:** Work shadow current Project Manager, co-ordinating various activity areas and the project team before, during & after the event.
- **Market Row Co-ordinator:** Work shadow current Co-ordinator to attract & organise stall-holders & arrange the Market Row area before & during the event.
- **Logistics Co-ordinator:** Work with team to organise layout and plan pickups, deliveries & services before, during and after the event.
- **Fun Zone Co-ordinator:** Work shadow the team leader planning and overseeing activities, stalls and volunteers before & during the event.
- **General Volunteers:** Help to set up the site on the day before, assisting in the refreshments tent & selling raffle tickets at the gate on the day.

We are also keen to attract more sponsors to cover the costs of this high profile event, so if you have a business that we can help to promote in return, please get in touch.

Classic Cars at Mortimer Fun Day 2016

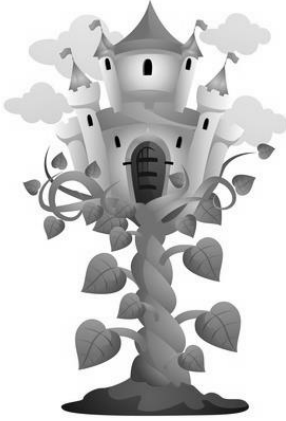


Back again by popular demand there will be a display of classic cars at this year's fun day. Modern classics as well as vintage vehicles will be on display to be appreciated by all who love beautifully engineered motor cars.

There are a limited number of spaces still to be filled, so if you own a classic or unusual vehicle and would be happy to display it on the day please contact Steve Carter at stivviboy@btinternet.com.

Recent MVP Events

Pantomime



Saturday 19th December saw Pyramid Productions return to the village with their version of Jack and the Beanstalk.

The show was an energetic retelling of the classic tale. Hapless Jack, our hero, was struggling to catch the attention of his true love until he was forced to sell the beloved family cow. After being duped into selling the cow for some magic beans, by the local giant's evil henchman, Jack, his scene stealing mum and his true love launched a rescue mission! With much Christmas cheer, panto banter, singing and dancing, the mayhem culminated in a frantic chase around the giant's castle.

The only true way to measure the success of an MVP panto is in the decibels of the children screaming at the characters (on no it isn't!). Those parents and volunteers who couldn't hear properly until Christmas Eve will testify that the children were thoroughly entertained!

Theatre Club

Fifty-seven enthusiastic theatre goers from Mortimer travelled to the Royal Albert Hall in London on 18th December to have a Christmas meal and sing carols with the City of London Choir accompanied by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. This is always a very popular event and is booked in July each year. For more information on how to register for the theatre club or to pre-book your space in 2016, email Rebecca Barker at bbarkerdg11@gmail.com.



Lunch Club



The MVP Lunch Club continues to thrive with about forty-five people who come regularly twice a month for a small meal and to enjoy the company of others. There is a team of volunteers who regularly give their time twice a month to serve food, transport people around and generally have lots of laughs with our lunch guests. We had our usual Christmas party on the 18th December, and with contributions of £5 a head, a buffet meal was provided for forty-seven people with Christmas cards and presents for all. The Buy Nothing Mortimer Facebook group (see later in this edition) also provided every lunch guest with an additional present donated by the people of Mortimer. Everyone was very touched with the gesture. Finally, we'd like to thank the children of Mortimer St John's Infant School who came and put on a puppet show for us. There was lots of laughter and fun from young and old alike.

Scarecrow Trail (www.facebook.com/mortimerscarecrow/)

October 2015 saw Mortimer's 6th Annual Scarecrow Trail. Once again the creations were fantastic and Walt himself would have been impressed with the thirty-eight Disney tributes.

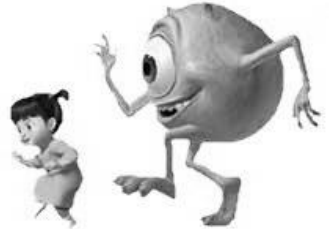
From old favourites such as Dumbo and The Little Mermaid, to more recent Disney/Pixar films including Gnomeo & Juliet and Inside Out, the variety made for an entertaining trail. Despite numerous balloons, Carl and Russell (from the film "Up") remained firmly anchored to the ground, and Tigger sat happily all week on his bouncy tail. Heartbreakingly, Mr and Mrs Potato Head remained permanently separated a street or so apart; at least they did when people were around!



As ever, trail followers were faced with an almost impossible decision when voting for the three categories, but congratulations ultimately went to "Mike's Photo Boo...th" – winner of *Children's Favourite*; "Olaf - In Summer" – winner of *Funniest Scarecrow*; and "Mary Poppins - Practically Imperfect in Every Way" – winner of *Adults' Favourite*. This year the *Special Honorary Award* was introduced. This made for a difficult decision for the MVP Chair, with the prize going to "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" whilst the close runners up were "Kaa" and "Dory and Nemo"; both mesmerising creations in their own right.

Pictures of all six Scarecrows Trails can be found on the Mortimer Scarecrow Trail Facebook page and a couple of online links from this year's trail that you may wish to take a look at are:

- <https://flipagram.com/f/etQjSmCrkf>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tYCFtg4_afU



Without everyone playing their part the Scarecrow Trail would not have been such a success so we'd like to thank all the scarecrow builders, Budgens, Dads Shop, IDS Ltd, Parkers, Spratley's, Mortimer Library, pictureseverywhere.com, the village pubs and café, and the trail followers. In the words of Mike and Sully from Monsters Inc., "We wouldn't have nothin' if we didn't have you!"

Watch out for details of the 2016 Scarecrow Trail in the next MVP Newsletter, on the Mortimer Village website and on the MVP Facebook page.



Santa's Grotto & Mortimer Christmas Market

With a hundred children lining up to see him, Father Christmas and his elves were tremendously busy at his grotto in St John's Hall on 5th December. Parents enjoyed a glass of mulled wine or a cuppa whilst they browsed our lovely Christmas Market stalls, and the Scouts sold heaps of tickets on their Teddy-Tombola. Stall holders have expressed interest in returning next year, so we will be booking it for the first weekend of December: put a note in your diary now! Tickets will go on sale following this year's Scarecrow Trail.



Other Local News

Row Across The Atlantic (www.justgiving.com/richardsatlanticrow)

You are probably reading this in the comfort of your warm home, perhaps whilst sat by the fire or curled up cosily on the sofa. Spare a thought for our Mortimer man, Richard Wattam, aka Dick of "Dick & Layney's Place" bar at the Mortimer Fun Day. By now Richard will be part way through his epic challenge, Rowing Across the Atlantic.



The crew of eight come from all parts of the globe. They met up on 23rd January and (at time of going to press) were due to set off from Gran Canaria around 30th January, dependent on weather, with the goal of rowing 2989 miles to Barbados in 32 days or less to beat the current World Record.

On board they will row in shifts, with four men rowing two hours on / two hours off, non-stop for the entire trip, feeding on high energy dried food. Richard trained hard during 2015 with the last few weeks concentrating on weight gain to give him a little extra fuel.

Richard is raising funds for Thames Valley Air Ambulance in memory of his close friend Pete Barnes, who used to fly the Air Ambulance before his tragic death in the Vauxhall helicopter crash in 2013. Richard is being sponsored by local companies CTS and Haines Farm Eggs, and Nationwide Metal Recycling from Norfolk, who have all given generously to the charity.

To track Richard's progress, like his Facebook page "Richardsatlanticrow". Donations can be made through www.justgiving.com/richardsatlanticrow.

Mortimer Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday 26th March

The fundraising Mortimer Easter Egg Hunt will take place on the Fairground on 26th March 2016 between 10:00 and 16:00. Maps for the Easter trail will be on sale for the four weeks prior in Budgens, Mortimer Post Office and Dad's Shop. There will also be a golden egg hunt in the park which offers you the chance to win a boxed egg. The Easter chick will be making a guest appearance too!

Refreshments will be served in the Community Centre and parking will be made available on the fairground, so come along and bring your family and friends. All profits go to help improve learning equipment at Mortimer Preschool.



Buy Nothing Mortimer

Ever moved to a new place and struggled to meet people, or wanted to find a good home for something you don't need anymore? Ever needed help but realized you don't really know anyone with the skills?

Buy Nothing Mortimer is a Facebook group with over 300 members. The idea is to encourage local friendships, save money and reduce waste through donating unwanted items, borrowing things, sharing skills and having fun together.

Each Buy Nothing group is hyper-local. You must live in Mortimer to join our group, but if you live elsewhere it's easy to start a group for your community; there is already a Buy Nothing Burghfield group too.

Since we started in September 2015, over 800 items have already been shared, including bags, baby stuff, kitchenware, craft materials, furniture and jam. Members have also offered their time, such as support for breast-feeding mums, parents of children with special needs, people wanting to learn to crochet and others who want to lose weight. We have even held social events including a Thanksgiving party, a Cheese and Wine evening and a beginners knitting group so far.

Search for 'Buy Nothing Mortimer' on Facebook and join today!



NOTHING

Give. Share.  Build community.

Thrive: Gardening Charity (www.thrive.org.uk)

Thrive is the leading charity in the UK that uses gardening to bring about positive changes in the lives of people who are living with disabilities or ill health, or who are isolated, disadvantaged or vulnerable. This is known as social and therapeutic horticulture. A couple of years ago MVP donated funds to help create a children's garden titled "Just For Fun". The garden, now one of many, is fully established and enjoyed at the centre in Beech Hill.



Thrive's charity sweet pea 'Eleanore Udall' is now for sale on the website (above) for £2.99. Created for Thrive by Thompson & Morgan, this pretty new form with graduated pink petals and a lovely scent is named after the late wife of the Rev. Dr Geoffrey Udall who bequeathed his Beech Hill estate where the charity now has its head office and gardens. Thompson & Morgan aims to raise £10,000 for Thrive through sales of this exclusive sweet pea, 100% of which comes to Thrive.

Thrive is also holding a fundraising event on Friday 26th February at Swallowfield Parish Hall featuring local band The Bacuma Boys. Tickets, which include a hot supper, are on sale now at £15 from Thrive or via the charity's website (above). There will be a raffle on the night and a bar featuring ale from West Berkshire Brewery.

Recruit & Train Volunteers In Your Community



Is your community looking to recruit or train new volunteers? You may be looking for volunteers from your area for a variety of tasks; to run a community event, building, help write a neighbourhood plan or to take over from current volunteers who wish to step down.

CCB is running a training event "Recruiting & Training Volunteers" on 16th February at Beedon Village Hall, 7pm - 9.30pm. This is FREE to attend and is supported by the West Berkshire Council Adult Community Learning team.

Garry Poulson from Volunteer Centre West Berkshire will be providing expert guidance and advice on the topic. The workshop will look to challenge attitudes towards volunteering, demonstrate proven recruitment and retention ideas and stimulate thinking that could be used in your own community setting. If you would like to reserve your place please contact Tessa.Hall@cberks.org.uk.

Community Buildings: Emergency Accommodation Training

Are you involved with running a community building in your village? Would you like to find out more about how to use your hall or building as emergency accommodation in the event of a local disaster?

CCB has been awarded a grant from Southern Electric Power Distribution to run workshops about using a village or community hall as emergency accommodation, for example in the event of bad weather. This is running on Monday 22nd February in Davies Room, Swallowfield Village Hall, 7pm - 9.30pm.

If you are interested in attending, there is no charge but places must be booked in advance. For further information please contact Wendy, Community Buildings Adviser on 0118 961 2000 or e-mail wendy.dacey@cberks.org.uk.

Mortimer Past & Present

How Big Is Mortimer?



Mortimer residents may feel the village has grown too much and may even feel resentment that West Berkshire Council recently defined Mortimer as a rural service centre. Historically, however, it seems that Stratfield Mortimer has always been significantly larger than the surrounding villages and has therefore fulfilled that role for centuries by providing services that weren't available in smaller neighbouring villages.

The Saxon name for what we now call Stratfield Mortimer was Stratfield Magna. From Magna Carta we should all know (even David Cameron!) that Magna means "great" in Latin; a good indication that we were already the biggest of the Stratfield villages, being villages by the fields along the Roman Road.

The Domesday Book of 1086 lists, among other things, the number of "villeins, bordars, cottagers and serfs" in each village. The first three of these were freemen, holding progressively less land in the order listed; serfs were effectively slaves. Researchers think that the numbers listed are those of men of working age or households, and they often multiply this by 4.5 to give a rough estimate of population.

In Stratfield Mortimer there were 77 households with 21 villeins, 38 bordars and 18 serfs. This, in Domesday Book research, is classified as a Very Large Village with an estimated population of 350. As a comparison, the area currently encompassed by Burghfield and Burghfield Common had about 20 households and an estimated population of 90 (Medium Village), Padworth had 19 households, Ufton Nervet 13, Silchester 39, and even Aldermaston was only 50 households (Large Village).

There is no evidence of the plague or any other disaster ever decimating the Mortimer population. It appears to have flourished and been a locally large village ever since. At the 2011 census our population was 3807, so it has grown just over tenfold since 1086. In contrast, Burghfield had grown to 5995, 66 times its 1086 population.

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 very grateful for the continuing support of Greenham Common Trust; they contribute half the cost of printing of this newsletter which is delivered free of charge to 2000 households.

