

Mortimer Village Partnership Newsletter



Mortimer Village Partnership
Enriching Village Life

June 2016

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



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

Summer: The Village At Its Best

The summer is here, and as you will expect this edition of the MVP Newsletter has lots of information about the village's biggest event... The Mortimer Fun Day on 2nd July, which showcases everything that is great about summer and great about living in Mortimer; all of our local clubs, associations, businesses, the young, the old, and those of us who'd like to think they are still somewhere in between, working together to enjoy a good "old fashioned" fun day out.

This year we have some new headline attractions that will have you *flying high* and get your *wheels spinning* along, with lots of the usual favourites: look inside for details. Don't forget that, as always, we are calling for people to give a couple of hours (or more) to help out. Please don't leave it to others; get in touch with us.

Many of you spotted my deliberate mistake in this section of the last newsletter, inviting you to the AGM on 12th of July (*oops!*). It was, in fact, on the 12th of March as advertised *inside* the last edition, and rounded off a lovely spring afternoon with the much promised tea and cakes, and a wonderful performance from the Hurst Singers. The same afternoon more than 70 volunteers filled a lot of rubbish sacks for our annual village spring-clean. It is gratifying to note that there seems to be progressively less litter around the village year on year. Let's look forward to the day when we won't need a spring clean at all!

Inside you can read about the latest visiting theatre production from Farnham Maltings, a very moving play called "Iranian Feast" which proved to be a feast for both body and soul. You will also see details of how to join other theatre trips.

Have a great summer, enjoy the holidays and see you all at the Mortimer Fun Day.

Doug Overett
MVP Chairman

*Where do pirates keep their cookies?
In a jarrrrrrr!*

MVP Affiliate News

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

There are only a few weeks remaining to the end of this successful 2015/16 season during which we have attracted new members and produced a members' database identifying skill levels, photography interests and development needs.



As a result of the database, several members wanted to get off 'automatic' and as a consequence we have run hands-on workshops on depth of field and shutter priority. Others expressed interests in using flash and in street photography, both of which we would like to cover before the end of the season.

We continue to have entertaining and inspiring speakers, hold internal competitions and at the end of the season we will be having a new competition featuring our 'best of the best' images.

We are always looking for new members, so 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 look forward to seeing you.

Mortimer 2012 W.I.

*Why should you never take a pea from a pirate?
Because he becomes irate!*

Mortimer 2012 WI meets on the 1st Wednesday of every month in the Community Centre at 7.30pm and our membership is continuing to grow. We have different speakers each month, as varied as a talk about the history of Madame Tussaud's, a flower arranger and a visit from our own Community Responders. Our next speaker is a stuntwoman whose talk is entitled "From Titanic to Skyfall - a Stunt Woman's Life".

As well as interesting speakers, our members have tried their hands at making silver clay jewellery and glass fusing, and we had a visit to Welford Park (the home of Bake Off) to see the snowdrops. At the moment we are making plans for our stall at the Fun Day and, as well as our usual delicious homemade cakes, this year we are featuring a range of hand knitted children's bags - a must have for all little girls.



On a practical note we collect toiletries to make emergency wash bags for patients admitted unexpectedly to the RBH.

Details of our future speakers can be found on the MVP calendar and contact details are on our poster on the noticeboard outside Budgens.

South Berks Concert Band



What an exciting year this is going to be. Not only will we be celebrating the Queen's 90th Birthday with you, but South Berks Concert Band is celebrating 40 years of bringing live music to the community.

We will be performing at a number of venues throughout the county over the year. Our first appearance in Mortimer was on 4th June when we played a varied programme of music as part of the Queen's birthday celebrations. The next time you will see us will be at the Mortimer Fun Day on 2nd July where we will be giving all visitors to our stand the opportunity to try out different brass, woodwind and percussion instruments.

The following day, 3rd July, will be a high point of our year-long celebrations as we invite you all to our picnic style "Community Celebrations" concert. Held in the marquee on the Fairground at 4.00pm, this will feature the première of "Highdays and Holidays – The Mortimer Revel" by Philip Sparke, commissioned especially for our 40th anniversary. If you know the history behind "The Mortimer Revel" we would love to hear from you. The concert will also include a rousing Proms style finale where we will be joined by The Hurst Singers.

Our final concert to be played in Mortimer will be on 15th October at St John's Church, commencing at 7.30pm. The programme of music will be based on the most popular pieces as voted by our band members, so do put these dates in your diary, tell friends, family and work colleagues, and we look forward to seeing you all at one, or perhaps all, of these events.

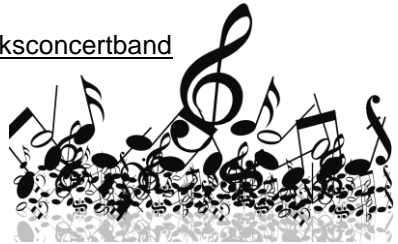
LIVE MUSIC – NOTHING BETTER

Tickets for our July concert will be available locally from Dads Shop very soon, but you can also book by calling our Box Office on 07775 988798 or emailing southberksconcertband@yahoo.com. For more information check out:

Our website www.southberksmusic.org.uk

Or follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/southberksconcertband

Or Twitter [@SBCBMusic](https://twitter.com/SBCBMusic).



The Hurst Singers

The Hurst Singers are a mixed voice choir whose repertoire includes classical, pop and show music. They were formed in 1976 and are celebrating their Ruby Anniversary this year with a concert on Saturday 9th July in St John's Hall, Mortimer at 7.30pm.

Sunday 3rd July: The Hurst Singers perform as guests of The South Berks Concert Band in the 2nd of their "Community Celebrations" concerts in the marquee on Mortimer fairground at 4pm.

Saturday 9th July: The Hurst Singers' Celebration Concert - 40 years of The Hurst Singers, St John's Hall, Mortimer at 7.30pm.

RNLI Book Sale



Save the date: 24th and 25th September 2016, at St John's Hall, Mortimer.

Lifeboats

If you have any book donations, please email John Bull on: j.r.bull@btinternet.com.

Mortimer West End & District Annual Show

Saturday 27th August 2016, Mortimer West End Village Hall, Church Road

Our Annual Show has been a village tradition for more than 100 years. Come along and enter our fun, friendly competitions. We have classes for every age to enter, from children up to and including 5 years, older children, mums, dads and grandparents. Classes cover Produce (fruit, flowers & vegetables), Art, Handicrafts, Photography, Wine and Domestic categories. Entry fees are 40p for each exhibit. Children's classes are free and children entering adult classes are also free.

Please don't think "My produce isn't good enough." or "My scones aren't light enough." Even if you don't pick up 1st prize, you could still walk away with 2nd or 3rd! We also have 'Best In Class' and 'Highly Commended'. Full details are in our schedule which will be available from local shops, on-line and at the Fun Day.



In the afternoon we will have lots of games, stalls, a raffle, plus delicious home-made cakes and a very good cup of tea along with the presentation of the prizes and cups. We will be at the Fun Day so come and visit us there. We will be happy to give you any further information and answer any questions you may have. You can pick up a schedule or find out about sponsoring the show to ensure it continues in the future.

We look forward to welcoming you on Saturday 27th August.

Walking Group: West Berkshire Walking For Health



The walks take place every Tuesday and start from the community centre car park. There are always two walks: at 10:00am a regular walk of around 3.5 miles that lasts about 1hr 30 mins; and at 09:45am a longer, faster, version of around 5.25 miles that lasts from 1 hr 45 mins to 2 hrs. We always all meet again back at the Horse & Groom at around 11:30 to 11:45 for coffee. All are welcome – new walkers please simply make yourself known to one of the walk leaders. More details can be found at www.westberks.gov.uk/wfh.

St John's Infant School PFA

We have lots of fun and exciting events coming up, so make a date in your diaries.



12th June, 10am - 3pm: Exercise Day

A fundraising day where you can pay £5 and join a circuits class involving toning and cardio vascular exercise such as jogging, skipping, weights, press ups, sit ups etc. The classes run throughout the day, so turn up when you want and stay as long as you like. This is suitable for all fitness levels as different options will be offered and it is suitable for males and females. There will be refreshments available to buy too.

16th June, 6:30pm: Kids on the Catwalk Show

The St John's children put on a fashion show modelling different sets of clothes which are available to buy on the night from the fashion company. Refreshments are available on the night.

1st October: Pamper, Shopping and Wine Night

An evening where you can book mini treatments such as facials, massage, reflexology, reiki, manicures, pedicures, make-up trials and browse the stalls such as Forever Living, Younique, Juice Plus, hand bag stalls, home-made candles, make-up, nail wraps and much, much more while also enjoying wine and soft drinks. All beauticians are fully qualified so this is a great evening to gather a group of friends together, chill out and relax. Tickets are £10 with all proceeds going to the PTA, and the beauticians charge £5 per mini treatment that you book.

5th November: our village fireworks night!

Mortimer West End Village Hall



Sunday 17th July, 11am – 2pm: Woodland Walk & Barbeque

The Mortimer West End Woodland Walk, now in its third year, will start and end at the village hall. The walk offers adults, children and furry friends an opportunity to enjoy the beautiful woodland in our area. On the way round you can collect treasure and solve puzzles with prizes to be won. You can relax afterwards with a drink and a sausage or two! Or if you don't fancy a walk, just come for the barbie.

1st Sunday in the month, 8am - 12 noon: Car Boot Sale

Thanks to all those who came along to the recent car boot sale and made it such a success. We're hoping to make this a regular event. If you are interested in attending please email: mwevh@outlook.com.

8th October: Quiz Night

With a trophy at stake, pit your wits against the best in the village at the annual quiz night.

More to come, so watch this space and the MVP Facebook page for updates. We look forward to seeing you there!

Mortimer Tennis Club

What's a pirate always looking for even though it's right behind him?.....His booty!



Wimbledon is getting closer and Mortimer's own tennis club got off to a great start with old and new faces joining us on the courts on the first Tuesday in April for our first session of the season. From 6:15pm Tuesdays and 6pm Thursdays you will hear the sound of balls being hit and much laughter at the fairground courts throughout the summer, weather permitting. However we don't just play in the summer; you may have seen a few hardy souls battling against the wind and cold at the weekends throughout the winter.

The Club fielded two Ladies', one Men's, and two Mixed teams in the Basingstoke winter league, playing against clubs from as far afield as Andover and Winchester. Mortimer's mantra is more about taking part, doing our best, and having fun, as opposed to topping the league – however a number of the teams have performed reasonably well, reaching mid-table in the higher divisions of the League. Summer league started at the beginning of May and runs all the way through to September. Home matches are usually played on a Saturday or Sunday morning, but we also play away during the weekday evenings.

It's not all about playing. There are social events throughout the year. Our beginning of the season picnic was held on the afternoon of 15th May. Members brought along food and drink to share and a mini tournament was organised. At this event members who have joined British Tennis, already opted into the Wimbledon ballot and paid their subs had a chance to win a pair of tickets, which this year included Centre Court on day 10: yet another great reason for becoming part of Mortimer Tennis Club.

So if you fancy dusting off that racquet and joining the Club, why not check us out at www.mortimertennisclub.co.uk, find us on Facebook or just come along to the courts. We welcome new members of all abilities.

Why does it take pirates so long to learn the alphabet? Because they can spend years at C!

St Mary's PTA



Mortimer St Mary's Junior School will be having its annual Summer Fayre on 18th June from 12 noon until 3pm.

Attractions will include our popular BBQ and beer tent, as well as craft stalls, classic cars, bouncy castle, competitions, raffle, silent auction, plant sale and a range of activities to entertain young and old.

All money raised will go towards providing equipment and experiences for the children at the school, so come along and support this worthy cause. You will be sure of a warm welcome.

Friday Afternoon Club

Some of you will be aware that the Craft Club has changed its name to the FRIDAY AFTERNOON CLUB.



Our aim is to attract people who share an interest in various handicraft hobbies – bringing their own knitting, needlework etc, or maybe play a board game or just have a chat over a cup of tea. We will be pleased to receive new members, especially men. All would be warmly welcomed. Tea/coffee & biscuits are provided and we meet on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month from 1.30pm to 3.30pm at the Mortimer Methodist Church Hall. There is a £2 charge for each session which covers the hire of the hall and refreshments. For further information, contact Ann on 01189 333318 or 01189 331419.

The Friday Afternoon Club supports 'Project Linus' and we are looking for donations of wool and material

PROJECT LINUS UK

for quilt making. Project Linus came to the UK in March 2000 and was named after the security blanket toting character from the Peanuts comic strip. The late Charles Schulz, its creator, was pleased to have Linus-inspired blanket makers to help sick and traumatised children. The quilts provide security and comfort to children with life changing illnesses and the charity aims to have quilts delivered to children who are local to the makers. You can find more information on the project at www.projectlinusuk.org.uk.



If you have material or wool to donate, please pop in to the Methodist hall on the 1st/3rd Friday afternoon or give Ann a call on 01189 333318 or 01189 331419.

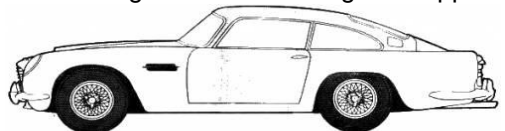
Upcoming MVP Events

Market Row



On this year's market row at the Mortimer Fun Day we have an even wider range of crafts and activities to tempt you. From acrylic & watercolour artists, hand drawn caricatures and original photography, to fabulous fudge and artisanal, traditional and organic breads and pastries. Food stalls will include olives, Turkish delight, baklava, jams, chutneys and salad dressings, as well as local sausages. Try wine-tasting, treat yourself to some fine silver jewellery, some organic and natural beauty products, or consider some reclaimed, rustic wood home furnishings. We also have great support from local pet food suppliers.

Classic Cars



Once again our local classic car enthusiasts will be proudly displaying their prized possessions at the Mortimer Fun Day. On display this year will be Ferrari, Aston Martin, MGB & Porsche to name but a few.

MVP Support For Local Groups



Affiliated groups and contact details for 2016 are:

1st Burghfield & Sulhamstead Scouts and Tao Explorer Unit	burghfieldgsl@outlook.com	
1st Mortimer Brownies	firstmortimerbrownies@hotmail.co.uk	933 3153
1st Mortimer Scouts	neiljohnson@btinternet.com	933 2147
1st Ufton Nervet Scouts	cathryn@uftonscouts.com	07793 196863
Alfred Palmer Memorial Field Trust	trustees@alfredpalmermemorialfield.org.uk	
Berkshire Music & Arts	hazel@berksmusicandarts.org.uk	07802 447546
Burghfield & Mortimer Handybus	pichurch@btinternet.com	983 6611
Burghfield Camera Club	burghfieldcc@gmail.com	
Friday Afternoon Club	d.stroud2010@btinternet.com	933 1419
Mortimer Music Live (MML)	jagsgrant@btinternet.com	933 3408
Mortimer & District branch of the RNLI	j.r.bull@btinternet.com	933 3741
Mortimer 2012 W.I	malekin@aol.com	933 1331
Mortimer Bellringers	petermacnaughtan@hotmail.com	933 2200
Mortimer Cricket Club	adrsmith@gmail.com	
Mortimer Dramatic Society	tshorrock@mrmerlin.com	07785 333321
Mortimer Film Club	pete.blagden@btinternet.com	933 2546
Mortimer Gardening Club	johncregan714@yahoo.com	933 3040
Mortimer Local History Club	munsonsinmortimer@yahoo.co.uk	933 1310
Mortimer Netball Club	joannesparrow@btinternet.com	933 1301
Mortimer St John's PFA	katrina.thomas@hotmail.co.uk	07788 281535
Mortimer St Mary's PTA	mortstmarys@gmail.com	
Mortimer Tennis Club	info@mortimertennisclub.co.uk	
Mortimer Toddler Group	louise_mugridge@sky.com	07875 091066
Mortimer West End Annual Show	melonybennett93@gmail.com	07963 129223
Mortimer West End Village Hall	mwevh@outlook.com	933 2155
South Berks Concert Band	southberksconcertband@yahoo.com	07759 967474
St Mary's, Sulhamstead Abbots	pisumcorporum@btinternet.com	983 2491
The Hurst Singers	mariatseasons@aol.com	933 2805
Together in Mission (TiM)	info@togtherinmission.org.uk	933 2569
West Berkshire Walking for Health	gb@atpps.com	933 1707
Willink School PTA	WPTA@willink.w-berks.sch.uk	

Pull-Out Programme

Saturday 2nd July

11:00 a.m. – 17:30 p.m.

FREE ENTRY



Now in its 8th year, the Mortimer Fun Day is brought to you by the Mortimer Village Partnership and promises to be the highlight of the summer without you even having to leave the village!

Our headline attraction this year is the fantastic 3SIXTY Bicycle Stunt Team who will thrill us with a range of impossible looking stunts, and any budding trick cyclists are invited for a few lessons with them. The Spratley's and Village Eye teams are sponsoring our first ever hot air balloon rides, giving you the chance to fly high and see the village from the sky... so everyone, you've been warned; tidy your gardens! The Reading Scottish Pipers will round off the afternoon once more to the sound of bagpipes and drums echoing around the Fairground.

Our great friends at Budgens, supplying teas and cakes in the MVP Refreshment Tent, along with our partners Mortimer Sausage Company, The Hatchgate Indian and Arborfield Hog Roast, will all be working hard to keep everyone fed. Of course Mortimer's own "pop-up" pub, Laney & Dick's, will be pulling pints non-stop to make sure nobody goes thirsty.

With some fantastic Market Row stalls and activities such as welly wanging, giant hula hoops, crockery smashing, Zorbs, inflatable giant slide, obstacle course, bungees and mini tanks, there will be lots to do for everyone. We are delighted that the pirates of Treasure Island are back again. This year we want to see lots more people dressed as pirates, not just the kids; come on Mum & Dad, it's a chance for you to connect with your "inner pirate" too.

Thanks to our generous sponsors who help fund the event, local charities, clubs and organisations are able to raise funds throughout the day, so in addition to the monies made by all the local businesses who participate, the Fun Day generates thousands of pounds for our local community.

We'll see you all on 2nd July at 11:00 o'clock. Bring the sunshine with you!

Doug Overett
MVP Chairman & Fun Day Project Manager

What's on in the Arena this year?

12:00	3SIXTY Bicycle Stunt Team
12:30	The Rock Project Reading
13:00	All Stars Theatre Academy
13:30	3SIXTY Bicycle Stunt Team
14:00	Virtue School of Gymnastics
14:30	Mortimer Fire Fighters
15:00	Starmaker Theatre Company
15:30	3SIXTY Bicycle Stunt Team
16:00	Reading Scottish Pipe Band
16:30	Winners' announcements

3SIXTY Bicycle Stunt Team

As well as their breath-taking displays in the main arena, the 3SIXTY Bicycle Stunt Team will also provide free expert tuition and an interactive test track on team bikes between performances.

The Rock Project Reading

The UK's premier school of rock and pop for young people aged 7 to 18 will perform in the Arena.

All Stars Theatre Academy

Based in Reading, the All Stars Theatre Academy will perform a variety of dance styles.

Virtue School of Gymnastics

Showing their performance skills, which may include gymnastic floor skills, circus skills, free running, vault & trampette, the Virtue School of Gymnastics provides fun filled gymnastic classes for children aged 5 and up.

Mortimer Fire Fighters

Our very own fire fighters will demonstrate what a fantastic job they do to keep us safe.

Starmaker Theatre Company

Starmaker youth theatre enables young people to gain experience in the performing arts and will be providing top quality entertainment to please the audience.

Reading Scottish Pipe Band

Formed 59 years ago and back for their third year running by popular demand, the Reading Scottish Pipe Band is our grand finale. They will march majestically up the field to play in the main arena.

PETS IN PRACTISE

Pet Problems Solved
& Dog Training Offered



Bring Your Dog to the Fun Day (petsinpractise.co.uk)

Pets in Practise is kindly sponsoring the dog show in the Pets' Arena from 12 noon to 4pm. Entries can be made on the day at the Pets in Practise stall no later than ten minutes before your chosen event.

- ♥ Midday: Cutest Puppy (under 12 months)
- ♥ 12:30pm: Waggiest Tail
- ♥ 1:00pm: Best Family Dog
- ♥ 1:30pm: Dog Most Like Their Owner
- ♥ 2:00pm: Best Child Handler (under 14 yrs)
- ♥ 2:30pm: Most Appealing Eyes
- ♥ 3:00pm: Prettiest Girl
- ♥ 3:30pm: Handsomest Boy
- ♥ 4:00pm: Golden Oldie (8 years +)



Rosettes and prizes will be awarded for 1st to 4th places. Entries cost just £2.50 per dog per class in aid of Philip (aged 1) and Emily (aged 5) – for more information about their plight for life search Facebook for “Emilka i Filipek Zdeb”.

MORTIMERMUSIC^{live.}

Following the sell-out success of last year's 'Queen II', MML is pleased to present the acclaimed **Take That tribute act** *Rule the World* featuring Jason as Robbie Williams, with support from local singer **Charlotte Pattenden**. The show is on Fun Day Saturday 2nd July at 8pm (doors open 7pm) in the main marquee on Mortimer Fairground with a licensed bar and food stalls.

Tickets are on sale now at £13 from Dad's Shop, Mortimer Post Office, Budgens, the Fruit Shop (Wellers) and online at www.mortimermusic.co.uk. Last year's event sold out early, so buy now to avoid disappointment. It's not a picnic format so please don't bring food, alcohol or chairs. Limited seats, tables and a disabled section will be provided.



For the latest news on this and our other events please see our website www.mortimermusiclive.co.uk, the Facebook page www.facebook.com/mortimermusiclive or follow us on twitter www.twitter.com/mortimermusic. You can also call us on 07446 239239. Mortimer Music Live is a not for profit Mortimer Village Partnership affiliated group.



To err is human.
To arrrr is pirate!



Bothersome Buccaneers Set To Return To The Fun Day Kids' Zone!

Avast ye land-lubbers! By popular demand the great, grand ship, The Beastly Barnacle, will once again be droppin' anchor at 'Treasure Island' in this year's Mortimer Fun Day. Arrrrrr!

For the second year runnin' there will be plenty of pirate mischief afoot, with some of the old faves such as the likes of 'Captain Squawk's Lucky Shuffle', 'Peg Leg Loot' and 'Skull and Crossbows'. But there also be some new fun with 'Bosun Bunion's Wash Day', 'Rapscaillon Raffle' and 'The Hornpipe Hat Hunt'. And what's more, why don't ye come along and 'ave a go at the 'Jolly Roger Colourin' Competition'?

Yer snivellin', hornswagglin' oldies can come with ye if ye so wish, but don't ye go lettin' 'em at the ship's grog unless they wants to be fed to the fish!

Shiver me timbers, 'tis goin' to be another crackarr of a day!

If ye be havin' booty ye can donate for the Rapscaillon Raffle – i.e. new, unwanted gifts - or as new CDs and books, suitable for prizes for the Scaallywags playin' the gregarious games, please contact pirate Lobster Legs O'Jellyfish on 933 2577 or lobsterlegs@hannawin.com.

There are 8 pieces of my most treasured rib-ticklin' pirate jokes buried in the newsletter. See if you can dig 'em all up!

Hot Air Balloon Rides

One of the major attractions at the Mortimer Fun Day this year is the Hot Air Balloon, sponsored by Spratley's and Village Eye. A £20 donation (plus £2.29 booking fee) will reserve your 5-10 minute tethered flight up to 100 feet (conditions permitting). Flight time slots will sell out quickly, so visit villageeye.co.uk/Villageeye/ to reserve yours now.



Fun Day Volunteers

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS! You know we love you. We are looking to fill around 150 volunteer jobs for the Fun Day: raffle ticket sellers, fun zone helpers, tea-tent helpers, tombola helpers, gazebo putter-uppers, logistics people and many, many more. Please get in touch by emailing volunteer@mortimervillage.org.uk or via our new Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/mortimervolunteers>. See you in July!

Fun Day Tombola



It's that time again when we make a plea for donations for MVP Fun Day tombola prizes. As usual there will be two stalls, one for adults and one for children. Please save any suitable items during your annual clear out. We can collect or you can drop items off in the plastic tub to the right of the front door at 30 Briarlea Road, RG7 3SB. Thanks!

MVP Theatre Trips



The MVP has been running 'at cost' trips to London Theatreland and provincial theatres for the past six years. This is an opportunity to join an escorted group on a coach that will drop off and pick up immediately outside the theatre. We have been on a range of trips over the years; from Warhorse to Wicked, and Miss Saigon to The Bodyguard. We have even had a trip to the Houses of Parliament.

Through the power of group booking we are able to obtain prime theatre seats at bargain prices. Our latest trips are Kinky Boots, The Play That Went Wrong, This Was The World And I Was King, and Thriller. Details of our annual trip to the Christmas Carols at the Royal Albert Hall will be out soon.

If you would like to go on the mailing list to receive details of this and future events please email Rebecca Barker on bbarkerdg11@gmail.com.

Christmas Panto



Did someone say Christmas Panto? Oh yes we did! MVP proudly announces that Gary Starr Productions will bring Dick Whittington to Mortimer on Sunday 11th December. Last year tickets sold out quickly, so don't miss out on what promises to be the hottest tickets in town this December! Join our Panto VIP Club and be the first to hear about how you can bag your tickets to this magical family pantomime on boxoffice@mortimervillage.org.uk and ask to join today. More information will follow after the summer.

MVP Lunch Club

We are delighted to announce that due to the work of one of our volunteers we have received a grant from BT via Age UK Berkshire to put towards our annual trip for the ladies and gents who regularly come along to Lunch Club. It is planned to visit the Cotswold Wildlife Park for lunch and a stroll (or a train ride) around the grounds. The plan was greeted with lots of enthusiasm by our lunch guests and volunteers. A report on our visit will be in the next MVP Newsletter. Thank you BT, your generosity is much appreciated.



We meet on a Thursday lunch time twice a month at the Community Centre on the Fairground opposite the Horse and Groom pub. If you know of any elderly people who might benefit from a little company, please contact Cindy Kimber on 0118 988 2676. Transport can be arranged.

If you can spare a few hours twice a month to help at Lunch Club we would be very grateful for your support. We are looking for drivers as well as people to help make and serve lunch, and also just to chat. If you can help please email Rebecca Barker on bbarkerdg11@gmail.com.

*Why couldn't the pirate play cards?
Because he was standing on the deck!*

Mortimer Scarecrow Trail



Thank You For The Music... Can you imagine walking around the village and bumping into pop stars, rock legends, members of The Muppet Band and the greatest stars from film, stage and TV musicals? That's what is going to happen in the Autumn half term holiday with the Scarecrow Trail 'Thank You For The Music' theme.

Build a scarecrow around any character related to songs or music: pop stars, bands from the past, children's singers, musicals, opera singers, or your most well-loved family song.

As in previous years there will be the chance for the scarecrow makers to win one of several prizes. The final date for entries isn't until Friday 23rd September but we thought we would let you know about it now in case you needed a project for the summer!

Your 'Thank You For The Music' character(s) can be reserved by completing an entry form and paying the £10.00 entry fee. Entry forms and Scarecrow Trail guidelines will be available at the Fun Day on the 2nd July, from the Mortimer Village Partnership (MVP) information tent or online from the 20th July, from the Mortimer Scarecrow Trail Facebook page or 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 0118 9332577 or lynn@hannawin.com.

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

Recent MVP Events

The Iranian Feast – 5th March 2016



I'm not sure anyone knew quite what to expect from the Iranian Feast: billed as a play where the audience would sit in an Iranian family's sitting room and sample traditional Persian food made during the performance, it always sounded intriguing. The opening seemed like it might be the story of a "normal" family with "normal" tensions - the husband, Abbas, deciding to have a party without giving his wife, Maryam, any notice; the wife frustrated with his lack of communication; the student daughter, Eli, wanting to go out with her friends

rather than do the family thing. But very quickly we discovered that this party had another purpose, a public revealing of many thoughts and secrets. At first, as we tried the tasty Persian food, we were all acclaimed as important friends, a community that had sustained this family through the dark times when Abbas had been imprisoned years ago as a dissident in Teheran.

But why is he so jumpy and nervous while declaring all this love for his friends? Why is Eli so adamant that she wants to go out? Gradually we discover the frightening secrets of this family living under the harsh Iranian regime: Abbas was released from prison on condition he takes a job processing information about possible dissidents – his family have never known this; Eli is a dissident – her family didn't know this – and her best friend and co-dissident is escaping Iran that night. And now they are all in danger by decisions Abbas has taken at work.

As we ate the delicious morsels together, it became apparent that all was not quite as it seemed. Having been drawn into their community, we had to face tricky moral questions and think about how we would deal with repressions of the state. Survival always comes at a price.

MVP AGM

The MVP's annual general meeting was held on 12th March in the Community Centre. A large display was on show depicting all the activities and events the MVP team held in 2015 for Mortimer. Our Chairman, Doug Overett, delivered a speech thanking the committee members and all the Mortimer volunteers for their hard work throughout the year, and awards were given out to local volunteers who work exceptionally hard for us. No fewer than seven gorgeous cakes were baked and donated (thank you!) and all attendees to the AGM enjoyed free tea and coffee, as well as the cakes! The executive positions on the MVP committee have been filled by the same people as 2015 for continuity purposes (and because no one else is that brave or silly). Once the formalities of the AGM were over, we were entertained by the excellent Hurst Singers. Thank you to everyone who attended and for the support everyone in Mortimer gives us to continue every year.

**ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING**

Spring Clean / Clean For The Queen



Over 70 villagers of all ages turned up on the lovely sunny spring day of 12th March, donned high-viz jackets and gloves, collected litter pickers and marched off to areas all over Mortimer to fill their fetching purple bin bags on our annual litter pick. This year, we timed it to coincide with the Clean for the Queen campaign, which meant we were given a bit more publicity than normal. Whilst we managed to fill

dozens of bags, we noticed that Mortimer was actually tidier than in previous years, because we didn't fill nearly as many sacks as usual. This is great news for Mortimer. Of course we uncovered some very strange things; we always do. Weird things included an electric scooter, the end of an iron park bench, two motor bike engines and a huge grease gun full of grease. All our thanks go out to everyone who turned up to spring clean our village once more for the benefit of our entire community.

Other Local News

When is a pirate like a bird?
When he's a-robbin'!

The Queen's Birthday Beacon and Party In The Park

The Parish Council, helped by Mortimer Music Live volunteers, organised a "Birthday Beacon" lighting on the Fairground to celebrate Her Majesty's birthday on 21st April. It was one of many lightings taking place that day around the country. First, the bells of St. John's Church rang out, then local classical guitarists Nigel Griffin and Nick Carter played a range of solos and duets. Air Vice Marshall Barry Newton gave a speech to the assembled several hundred, congratulating Her Majesty on her major achievement. Councillor Julian Earl scampered up the beacon tower to light the flame at 8.30pm, perfectly in time with the nation's other beacons. The Hurst Singers led the singing of patriotic music, including Jerusalem, Pomp & Circumstance No. 1 and the National Anthem.

MORTIMERMUSIC live.



The same team is laying on "Party in the Park" to celebrate Her Majesty's *official* birthday from 4pm on 4th June (just after this newsletter goes to press). Plans include comedy juggler/unicyclists Shane and Alex, followed by the award-winning South Berkshire Concert Band (SBC). They perform a range of music from the past 40 years and together with mezzo-soprano Valerie McFarlane and her husband lead patriotic favourites. The All-Stars and Shinfield Shambles Morris dancers provide an interlude that's followed by musicians Izziee Jewel and State 51 from The Willink School. The evening continues with local favourite Nicolette Street and the finale, in Brian May style, is provided by guitarist Andrew Middleton. We hope it went as described and wasn't rained off by the time you read this! For the latest news on this and other Parish Council or Mortimer Music initiatives, please 'like' the Facebook pages www.facebook.com/stratfieldmortimerparishcouncil and www.facebook.com/mortimermusiclive.

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

Visitors to the RHS Chelsea Flower Show this year were able to see Thrive's own sweet pea 'Eleanore Udall' in full bloom in a garden in the Grand Pavilion, highlighting different looks that can be achieved in small spaces through container gardening. Packets of the sweet pea seeds are available for £2.99 from www.thrive.org.uk with 100% of the money generated going to Thrive, which uses gardening to bring about positive changes in the lives of people who are living with disabilities or ill health, or are isolated, disadvantaged or vulnerable.



*Why didn't the pirate take a
shower before walking the plank?
Because he knew he would wash
up later on the shore!*

Wokefield Wildlife Safari

10:00-12:00 Sunday 26th June. Meet at the main car park on Goring Lane by the pond.



Join Simon Barnett of the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust on a walk around the common to find some of the truly remarkable animals that make their home here. Learn about where they live, what they eat and why they like this habitat. Some of the things we *may* see on our walk are: adders, slowworms, common lizards, various species of dragonflies and damselflies, and green tiger beetles.

Fun Day Thanks

The Mortimer Village Partnership Fun Day team would like to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone who is taking part this year. In particular, an advanced thank you to all of our volunteers and sponsors.

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 the hay bales surrounding our arena.

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 all the local **Scout Groups** for their assistance in car parking, the loan of loads of equipment and their help in the Treasure Island Kids' Zone.

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! A big **THANK YOU** to all for your generous donations.



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 and Village Eye are sponsoring the HOT AIR BALLOON RIDES this year!



Unique Outdoors 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. Call 0118 933 1806, email uniqueoutdoors@gra.uk.com or visit www.uniqueoutdoors.co.uk.

TRIANGLE TRAVEL

has supported the Fun Day 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.



Village Eye. A Fun Day would be no fun without people, and Village Eye has very kindly donated the centre pages of their July issue to advertise our event to over 11,000 homes and businesses in the RG7 area for the past six years. All the unique design and colourful artwork for the posters and banners for the Fun Day are created by them. Excitingly, this year Village Eye and Spratley's are sponsoring the HOT AIR BALLOON RIDES! Visit www.villageeye.co.uk to learn more.



Budgens is a long-time supporter of many MVP events and this year they are sponsoring and running the REFRESHMENTS TENT, with hot and cold drinks, cakes, etc. available all day to keep the entire family happy.



has been in Burghfield since 1998 and their experienced team is always delighted to speak to you about all your property needs. Well located on the Reading Road, Burghfield, please feel free to pop in when passing. For more details visit www.davistate.com or telephone 0118 983 1201. Davis Tate is once again supporting the Fun Day by sponsoring the programme for TREASURE ISLAND in the Kids' Zone.

Reading Calor Centre. The Calor Bear and his team will be in charge of the HULA HOOP this year. 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 cookers and barbecues to heaters. For more details visit www.calor.co.uk or call 0118 933 2363. Calor is sponsoring the READING SCOTTISH PIPE BAND this year.



Westbuild Homes has constructed homes in the Thames Valley and Home Counties for over 50 years. It has established an enviable reputation as a dedicated specialist in its field, and takes great pride in creating homes of the finest calibre that are truly houses designed to be homes.

In 2010 the **David Cliff** Agency opened its doors in the heart of Wokingham town centre. Their new office opened on Victoria Road in Mortimer in 2015, where they are perfectly placed to deliver a first class service.



M^cColl's plays an important role in serving local communities, and look at all opportunities to support and develop the areas around their stores. Regional Managers are given autonomy to engage with the local community at a grass roots level.

Dads Shop will be having their own area to celebrate their 50th anniversary. Come along to see what they're doing!



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

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 always donates it to local causes.

A pirate walks into a bar wearing a paper towel on his head.
He sits down at the bar and orders some rum.
The bartender asks, "Why are you wearing a paper towel?"
"Arrrrr...." says the pirate. "I've got a bounty on me head!"

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 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.

