

# Mortimer Village Partnership Newsletter



Mortimer Village Partnership  
Enriching Village Life

February 2017

All this and more available on our  
website [www.mortimervillage.org.uk](http://www.mortimervillage.org.uk)



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

## **2017: The Year To Get Involved**

With 2017 already well under way and the MVP Calendar filling up, this year we will be reviewing the role of MVP. Towards the summer we will be asking everyone in Mortimer to participate in an MVP survey to help ensure we can respond to local needs, and to see if we are communicating effectively with all sectors of the community.

Our role is very much to facilitate activities in the village, be they clubs, events or supporting varied demographics in our community. As our strap line says "Enriching Village Life" we strive not to lose sight of that broad agenda and certainly not become merely a vehicle for arranging village events, as enjoyable as that is.

In this edition of our Newsletter we highlight many of the great things that happen in Mortimer, but it is worth thinking about the number of volunteers that are needed to make all these things happen. These roles range from volunteer drivers to Lunch Club helpers, from putting up marquees or spring cleaning the village to helping Santa in his grotto... but they are all ways to get involved in village life.

Maybe 2017 could be your *year to get involved*. There was never a truer saying than "many hands make light work", so as you read this edition take a moment to think how you could help.

You will find lots of contact details in the Newsletter, so pick up the phone or drop us an email and join in!

**Doug Overett**  
**MVP Chairman**  
[doug.overett@gmail.com](mailto:doug.overett@gmail.com)

### **South Berks Concert Band ([www.southberksmusic.org.uk](http://www.southberksmusic.org.uk))**



A new year with a new charity partnership: Mortimer's South Berks Concert Band and Save the Children are delighted to announce their partnership in 2017.

Since moving to Mortimer in 2013, South Berks Concert Band has been active around many community music activities. The band has twice performed family picnic-style concerts in the Fun Day marquee on the Fairground, played at the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration in June 2016, and, in October of the same year, gave the first formal evening concert at St. John's Church as part of the band's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. Smaller groups from the Band have been involved in other community events such as the annual Carols Round the Tree at Christmas and the Silver Sunday events. Band members have also thoroughly enjoyed introducing adults and children to their instruments, giving anyone who wished a chance to "have a go" at both the Mortimer Fun Day and the full day workshop at St John's School in September. A huge thank you to everyone from the community who has supported the band throughout these events over the past 3 years.

Nearly 50 years ago a group of young mothers in Burghfield Common got together to raise money for Save the Children. Save the Children Fund - Kennet Branch was formed. The members have changed, although some have been on the committee for 40 years. Pram races, discos and recycling have given way to jumble sales, jazz evenings and murder mysteries, but the aim and the need are still the same. Save the Children works in almost every country in the world, mainly in long term projects training up local workers, but also in famine and emergency relief.

Members of the Kennet Branch of Save the Children approached Mortimer Village Partnership with a desire to host an event in Mortimer in 2017, which could then be developed further for Save the Children's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2018. MVP introduced the two groups, who have agreed to work together with the post-Fun Day concert in the marquee on the afternoon of Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2017. Both organisations are looking forward to entertaining the community with another family event. This is a good time to put the date in your diary and invite some friends along to support the band and Save the Children.

Save the Children will also be South Berks Concert Band's charity partner for their March and December concerts in 2017.



**Save the Children**

## 1<sup>st</sup> Mortimer Baden Powell Scout Group



2016 was another great year for 1<sup>st</sup> Mortimer Cubs and Scouts. During the year, our Cubs and Scouts have enjoyed lots of fun activities, both indoors and out: Camping, fire lighting and cooking, tracking through the woods, den building, map reading, hiking & handicraft, to mention just a few. We even had an indoor snowball fight to end the term! On top of all this during the year our Cubs celebrated 100 years of Cubbing.

As some of you may have seen, we have erected a new fence around our HQ thanks to the generosity of the Greenham Common Trust, Englefield Estate, Vibrant Villages, and in particular the Trustees of Mortimer Relief in Need, whose overwhelming generosity enabled us to complete our project in record time. We are also very grateful to the trustees of the Alfred Palmer Memorial Field, with whom we were able to negotiate the tenure of land formerly occupied by the Guide HQ. This additional land has enabled us to be designated as an area training centre, offering training to young Cubs and Scouts as well as adults. Phase two of our project to raise funds to improve our washroom & toilet facilities and increase our storage will commence in the spring once plans have been drawn and approved.

2017 is already shaping up to be another great year for the Group. This will be our 107th year, having been founded in 1910. Our Scouts will be training hard, ready for our Easter cycle tour of the Normandy beaches, travelling from Caen to Cherbourg over 4 days. This will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> time that we have undertaken this expedition which is completely self-contained with no external support; all tents, clothes and equipment is transported in panniers and cycle trailers, and to add to the experience all meals are taken in cafés and restaurants along the route. Everyone is looking forward to it with great excitement.

We do have a few spaces available in our Cub and Scout Group, so if you want your son or daughter to join in the fun, just get in touch; our details are available on the MVP website. We would also be very interested to hear from anyone who would be interested in starting up a Beaver Colony, which is something we have never had here in the village but we would very much like to have.

Good Scouting to you all and the very best for 2017.

## Mortimer 2012 W.I.

This year we were entertained at our Christmas Party by the Mortimer St Mary's school orchestra ably assisted by the Willink Ensemble, playing carols whilst we all sang along; a truly festive start to our evening. Thank you to all of you.

theWI  
INSPIRING WOMEN

We have much to look forward to in 2017, including what promises to be an entertaining talk on 5<sup>th</sup> April entitled "Put Your Best Face Forward", when Terri Read talks about the lengths women had to go to in their quest for 'beauty and duty' during the Second World War. In June we have a private guided tour of Stratfield Saye House, and later in the year a London theatre trip and a visit to Waring's Bakery in Tilehurst.

On a more serious note, we collect toiletries to make up Hospital Bags for patients who have been admitted under emergency situations. Last year we donated 198 bags to the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

## Friday Afternoon Club



A quick update on what's happening with the Friday Afternoon Club... We have been very lucky to have had two donations this year, enabling us to make more than forty quilts for Project Linus ([projectlinusuk.org.uk](http://projectlinusuk.org.uk)), which provides quilts for children in hospices, hospitals or in distress, so a huge well done and thank you to everybody involved.

Some of our members also made blankets, baby cardigans, hats and lots & lots of bed socks for The Duchess of Kent Hospice in Reading, which are sold to make money for occupational therapy at the centre. This was much appreciated by The Duchess of Kent Hospice and some members have been invited to tea by way of recognition and thanks for the support we have given.

For anybody who doesn't know, Friday Afternoon Club meets 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month at the Methodist Hall, West End Road from 1:30pm to get together, take part in craft activities or play board games. Why not pop in for a cup of tea and a chat? Everyone welcome!

If anybody has any material or wool they could donate it would be very welcome. Finally, we would like to say a well-deserved thank you to Helping Hand in Tadley, who have given so much to help us.

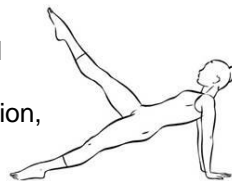
PROJECT LINUS UK

## **Mortimer West End Village Hall** ([www.facebook.com/mwevillagehall](http://www.facebook.com/mwevillagehall))

We have lots of events lined up for the coming year, so make a note in your diary:

### **PILATES CLASSES - Mondays 9:30am**

Wendy Gill will be starting Pilates classes at the hall from the end of January. Please contact Wendy on 07961 102535 or email [wendygill44@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wendygill44@yahoo.co.uk) if you would like further information, or if you would like to book a place. As spaces are limited they must be booked in advance.



### **BINGO AND CHILLI NIGHT - Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March 7:30pm**

Come and try your luck at our Bingo night. Tickets are £10 (under 16s half price) and include one card per round and a delicious chilli meal (meat or veg). Additional cards are £1 each. There will be lots of winners as there will be a prize for every round. Bring your own drinks.

### **CAR BOOT & TABLE TOP SALE - Sundays 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 4<sup>th</sup> June, 6<sup>th</sup> August, 1<sup>st</sup> October, 8:00am – 12:00 noon**

Thanks to all those who came along to our car boot sales last year, both to buy and to sell. Once the weather warms up we will be running them again on the first Sunday of alternate months. Entry is free and pitches are £5. Not only can you grab some great bargains, but you can also enjoy a steaming cup of tea and a hot bacon butty.

### **WOODLAND WALK AND BARBECUE - Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July 11:00am – 2:00pm**



Starting and ending 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. There are prizes to be won and treats to collect, and you can relax afterwards with a drink and a burger or two. Or, if you don't fancy a walk, you could just come for the barbie. Entry is £6 per team.

### **QUIZ NIGHT - Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October 7:30pm**

With a trophy at stake, pit your wits against the best in the village at the annual quiz night. Tickets are £10 including a ploughman's supper. Put together your own unbeatable team or come on your own and make some new friends. Bring your own drinks and snacks.

### **PHOTO SESSION - November**

Wondering what to give the grandparents for Christmas? How about a beautiful photograph of the family? Come down to Mortimer West End Village Hall for a photographic session. Full details will be available nearer the time on [www.facebook.com/mwevillagehall](http://www.facebook.com/mwevillagehall).

For further information about any of these events or to buy tickets, please contact [mwevh@outlook.com](mailto:mwevh@outlook.com) or 0118 970 0001. Also email us if you would like to be added to our list of friends for regular event updates.

## **Mortimer Cricket Club** ([www.mortimercc.org.uk](http://www.mortimercc.org.uk))



2017 began on a sad note for the Club with the death of Adrian Keep, an Honorary Life Vice-President of the cricket club and a member and supporter of the Club for many years. Adrian had contributed to the Club both on and off the field, having been player, captain, chairman, treasurer and groundsman over the years. Members of the Club, friends and family laid a memorial wreath in the shape of a cricket bat on the cricket square on New Year's Day. He will be sorely missed.

Following a successful season in 2016 and having spent the last few years planning, the Club is happy to announce its return to playing Saturday League cricket in the coming season. Mortimer CC will be playing in Division 3 of the Berkshire Cricket League, with the first game on 6<sup>th</sup> May. The Club will continue to play in the Mid-Week Cricket League and will field a friendly Sunday XI too. All standards of cricket are catered for and new players of any age or standard are always welcome. Anyone interested in coming along to play, learn about cricket, or just to watch can contact the club through our website. Players, umpires, scorers and supporters are always welcome!

Winter practice nets will begin at the Willink school on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February at 9:30am and later on in spring the club will transfer its practices outdoors onto the Fairground. The (now nearly traditional) game vs MVP is to be played on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July.

Fund raising last year was split between charities: the Club raised money in aid of Guide Dogs and Cancer Research, but also to replace the ageing roller, which has served the club for several decades but is now coming to the end of its serviceable life. With donations from Greenham Common Trust and the MVP, the Club is well on the way to purchasing a new roller for preparing wickets ahead of the new season; just a few more pounds to find! With that in mind, we will be holding another popular variation of the Club's Wine Night in the next couple of months.

## **MFM (Music For Mortimer)** ([www.MFM.life](http://www.MFM.life))

**MFM**  
**PRESENTS**

Kingsclere Guitar Society's concert, supported by talented teenage musicians Juliette and Madelaine Ashman, recorders by Penny Griffin and Jackie Gilson with "syrupy" solos (his words) by Nigel Griffin played to an appreciative St John's Hall in November.

Competing valiantly with The Messiah up the road, the event raised a commendable £158 for St. Michael's Hospice in memory of the unassuming yet supremely talented Tim Gilson who had played in a 2013 event hosted at Spratley's garage. If you missed the event there a clip on [www.MFM.life](http://www.MFM.life).

Our next MFM event is "A Pirate's Tale – the real Boat that Rocked", a one night only chance for an insight into life aboard the ships that beamed pop to a music-starved nation in the swinging sixties. Budgens' very own Richard Swainson tells the inside story of his years at sea at the start of Radio Caroline, and how he was poached to

play a central role aboard the highly successful Radio London ('Big L'). The show will include sights and sounds from the era and special guest Roger 'Twiggy' Day from Radio Caroline, Piccadilly Radio Manchester, BBC in the South and enough others to fill this Newsletter. It's on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April from 7:30pm in the Community Centre, with a licensed bar. Tickets are just £6 from Budgens, The Fruit Shop (Wellers), on line at [www.MFM.life](http://www.MFM.life) or call 07446 239239. Proceeds will go to Prostate Cancer UK.



**Tony Blackburn with Richard Swainson**

## **Mortimer Tennis Club** ([www.mortimertennisclub.co.uk](http://www.mortimertennisclub.co.uk))



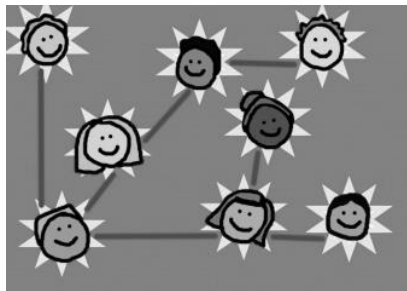
All our teams have played in both the summer and winter Basingstoke League in 2016-17. Our men's team will move up a division after coming top in their division this summer, so we wish them continued success for the 2017 season. However, with several of our long serving players moving on this year we were only able to enter one ladies team, which meant our A and B team players had to join together in a higher division. They might not be winning, but they still manage to enjoy themselves, which is what our club is all about.

We offer social tennis for members on Tuesday and Thursday evenings on two courts and a Sunday afternoon too. In 2017 the committee is hoping to see additional sessions and new opportunities for members to compete. We also arrange various social events and friendly club tournaments between April and September. We hope to participate in the Great British Tennis open days under the banner of the Lawn Tennis Association. Look out for signs of when you will be able to join us to book a fun session with activities organised by a tennis coach. You'll be able to play three times a week for just £40 (single adult) for the whole summer season. Quite a few of us managed to continue playing after the end of our season in September until the light levels were prohibitive. You can find out more at [www.mortimertennisclub.co.uk](http://www.mortimertennisclub.co.uk), on Facebook and through the LTA Clubspark website <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/MortimerTennisClub>.

We invite our members to influence the workings of the club by attending our annual AGM and social. Check our website regularly for further details of when and where. We'd also like to thank Craig of the Horse and Groom who has once again allowed our members and other players to use his facilities when the need arises; a truly community-minded gesture that is very much appreciated by our club.

## **Mortimer Village Partnership (MVP) Affiliated Group Membership**

The aim of MVP Affiliated group membership is to promote community cooperation and cohesion, and to provide local groups with a number of practical benefits, such as the borrowing of MVP equipment, laminating and photocopying, inclusion on the village website where Affiliated Groups can raise awareness of their organisation by featuring on the front page, as well as communication through this newsletter, use of the MVP logo, support via our Facebook page and use of our prominent notice board outside Budgens in the village. We also offer promotional support via Café B in Burghfield, using their 'rolling screen' on display in the café.



If you have an interest and would like to start a club, or are part of an existing group and would like to find out more then please contact Julie Carter on 0118 933 2265 or [juliecarter396@btinternet.com](mailto:juliecarter396@btinternet.com).

## **Upcoming MVP Events**

### **Defibrillators**

The much-awaited defibrillators have arrived! After a significant delay due to a change in the specification for the boxes in which they are being mounted, the three defibrillators will be installed at the following locations:

- on the outside of the Sansome & George office on West End Road
- on the outside of The Horse & Groom on The Street
- on the outside of Mortimer Surgery on Victoria Road

MVP thanks those three businesses for agreeing to host the defibrillators for the benefit of the whole village. Two of the defibrillators are being funded by MVP and the third by Tadley First Responders from a grant received from AWE for this purpose. If you call the emergency services with a medical situation which needs a defibrillator, you will be given instructions on how to get one. The defibrillator itself is self-explanatory so anyone can confidently use it.





# MVP Support for Local Groups



Affiliated groups and contact details for 2017 are:

1st Burghfield & Sulhamstead Scout Group	07867 800335	burghfieldgsl@outlook.com
1st Mortimer Baden Powell Scout Group	933 2147	neiljohnson@btinternet.com
1st Mortimer Brownies	933 3153	firstmortimerbrownies@hotmail.co.uk
1st Ufton Nerve Scout Group	07793 196863	cathryn@uftonscouts.com
Alfred Palmer Memorial Field Trust		trustees@alfredpalmermemorialfield.org.uk
Berkshire Music & Arts	07802 447546	hazel@berksmusicandarts.org.uk
Burghfield & Mortimer Handybus	983 3694	pichurch@btinternet.com
Burghfield & Mortimer Volunteer Drivers	983 1814	derekseward@waitrose.com
Burghfield Camera Club		burghfieldccsec@gmail.com.
Friday Afternoon club	933 1419	d.stroud2010@btinternet.com
Hurst Singers	933 2805	mariatseasons@aol.com
MFM (Music for Mortimer)	07446 239239	nickcarter1@gmail.com
Mortimer & District Branch of the RNLI	933 3741	j.r.bull@btinternet.com
Mortimer 2012 WI	933 1331	malelkin@aol.com
Mortimer Bell Ringers	933 2200	petermacnaughtan@hotmail.com
Mortimer Cricket Club		adrsmith@gmail.com
Mortimer Dramatic Society	07785 333321	tshorrock@mmerlin.com
Mortimer FC	07786 631027	mortimerfootballclub@gmail.com
Mortimer Film Club	933 2546	pete.blagden@btinternet.com
Mortimer Local History Club	933 1310	munsonsinmortimer@yahoo.co.uk
Mortimer Music Live	933 3408	jaqsgrant@btinternet.com
Mortimer Netball Club	933 1301	joannesparrow@btinternet.com
Mortimer St John's PFA	07788 281535	katrinathomas@hotmail.co.uk
Mortimer St Mary's PTA		mortstmarys@gmail.com
Mortimer Tennis Club		info@mortimertennisclub.co.uk
Mortimer West End Produce Show	933 1792	melonybennet93@gmail.com
Mortimer West End Village Hall	933 2417	mwevh@outlook.com
Santas of Burghfield	07824 623583	glyn.townsend@hpe.com
Save the Children - Kennet Branch		jill.bradberry@icloud.com
South Berks Concert Band	07785 311856	southberksconcertband@yahoo.com
St Mary's Sulhamstead Abbots	983 2491	pisumcorporum@btinternet.com
Together in Mission	933 2569	info@togetherinmission.org.uk
West Berkshire Walking for Health	933 1707	gb@atpps.com
Willink School PTA		pta@willink.w-berks.sch.uk

## MVP AGM – Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The MVP Committee hereby invites you to join us in the Community Centre at 4:30pm on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March for the MVP's Annual General Meeting. Everyone is welcome. Enjoy a free cup of tea or coffee, a slice of cake and the entertainment provided by local music group *Achoired Taste*. We are looking to bolster our team, so if you are able to

volunteer your time to the MVP then we'd love to hear from you. Please contact the MVP Chair Doug Overett on [doug.overett@gmail.com](mailto:doug.overett@gmail.com).

## Mortimer Spring Clean – Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March

The organisers of Mortimer's annual spring clean are calling all Mortimer residents to come out and help with a mass litter-pick on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March from 2pm to 4pm. Come to the garden of the Horse & Groom from 1:30pm to collect litter-picking equipment and to choose your route. This is a worthwhile opportunity to give our village a spruce up before the spring growth makes it more difficult.



## Mortimer Village May Ball – Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May

Dig out those glad-rags and get together with friends on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May at De Vere Venues, Wokefield Park in the Silchester Suite from 7pm to 12:30am. Dress code: Black tie.

The ticket price of £55 per head includes pre-dinner drink (soft drink, beer or sparkling white wine) served in the Grazeley Suite, a 3 course dinner served in the Silchester Suite with music to dance to provided by Mortimer Music Live.

A coach will be available, picking up from the Horse and Groom and the lay-by at St Marys Road at 6:45pm and dropping-off at the same places, leaving Wokefield at 12:30am. The cost for a return coach ticket will be £5 per head, which can be added to your ticket price.

Tables are in groups of 10, so if you wish to sit with your friends it is best to book under one lead name and pay the total before you collect the balance from your friends as reservations can only be guaranteed once payment has been made in full.

Ball Ticket - £55.00 pp  
Coach Ticket - £5.00 pp

For table of 10 - £550.00  
For table of 10 with coach - £600.00

Tickets are available from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February, either online (booking fees apply) at [www.mortimervillage.org.uk](http://www.mortimervillage.org.uk) OR directly from Gillian Butler on 07970 018213 [gillian.butler1@tesco.net](mailto:gillian.butler1@tesco.net). Tickets are limited, so best to book early!

## **Mortimer Fun Day – Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2017**

Last year was so much fun: the stunt cyclists, the bagpipes, the sausages, the craft stalls, the beer tent...

The date for your diary this year is 1<sup>st</sup> July, and this will be Doug Overett's 4<sup>th</sup> Fun Day as Project Manager, and regretfully his last. Everyone needs to take a bit of a rest after a while, but hopefully we will generate new ideas with some new team members. The Fun Day is the work of a planning team, typically around 20 people, each with a discrete area of responsibility so that it doesn't take too much on anyone's time. Most of us work full time and have family commitments, so the tasks are far from impossible and we have lots of information to allow us to "copy & paste" from one year to the next... quite straight forward really, on paper!



Last year we only had 2 meetings from start to finish (and a few beers afterwards). We are delighted to have some new faces this year to help, but we need 6 more people to join the team to shadow some of the tasks.

The Mortimer Fun Day is such a great day and the feedback every year is so positive, it would be sad for it not to continue due to lack of people to take over the reins. So if you are new to the village and are looking for ways to make new friends or indeed if you would like to do something a bit more interesting than just "going to work" or watching the box, please contact Doug as soon as possible on 07738 470 870 or [doug.overett@gmail.com](mailto:doug.overett@gmail.com) and join the team.

## **Recent MVP Events**

### **Santa's Grotto & Mini Christmas Market**

The children of Mortimer were thrilled to visit Santa in his Grotto at St John's Hall. Santa and his elves had a very busy time, seeing over 80 children during the day. There were some great festive stalls to browse around and pick up some lovely Christmas gifts and cards, and everyone was a winner on the Scout's soft toy tombola.

Visitors enjoyed tasty snacks and yummy mulled wine in an atmosphere of festive cheer!



## Scarecrow Trail – Thank You For The Music!

The Autumn Half Term Holiday brought Mortimer's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Scarecrow Trail. The creations were fantastic as musically related figures adorned the gardens and businesses of our fab village.

With pop stars & rock acts including KISS, popular children's characters such as Mr Tumble and Mowgli, characters from musicals such as Danny from Grease and everything in between, the variety once again made for an entertaining and exciting trail. Apart from Amy Winehouse taking a dive off her 'stage' - courtesy of the wind we hasten to add - the remaining scarecrows remained in good shape for the 9 days.

As ever, trail followers were faced with an almost impossible decision of who to vote for in each of the three categories, but congratulations to the following:

### Adult's Favourite:

- 1st Prize - The Beatles - Moran Family
- 2nd Prize - Sweeny Todd - The Sanderson Sisters
- 3rd Prize - Elton John - The Lockes and The Harmsworths

### Children's Favourite:

- 1st Prize - MAHNA MAHNA - Lambert Family
- 2nd Prize - Puff The Magic Dragon - Rees Family
- 3rd Prize - The Clangers And Their Musical Tree - Vidal Family

### Funniest:

- 1st Prize - Selfie In The Rain - Hannawin Family
- 2nd Prize - Mr Tumble's Hello Song - The Wallers
- 3rd Prize - Lady Gaga - Udale-Clarke Family

This year, the MVP Chair's Honorary Award deservedly went to Little Oaks After School Club for their fantastic Music Man – whom, we believe, has morphed into various other characters since!

Pictures of all 7 Scarecrow Trails can be found on the Mortimer Scarecrow Trail Facebook page. In addition, there is an online link from this year's trail that you may wish to take a look at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uO7Nq2q26L8&feature=youtu.be>

Without everyone playing their part the Scarecrow Trail would not have been the success that it was so we'd like to thank all the scarecrow builders, Blue Array Ltd, Budgens, Dads Shop, IDS Ltd, Parkers, Spratley's, Mortimer Library, pictureseverywhere.com, the village pubs and café, and the trail followers. Thank you one and all.

Watch out for details of the 2017 Scarecrow Trail in the next MVP newsletter, on the Mortimer Village website ([www.mortimervillage.co.uk](http://www.mortimervillage.co.uk)) and on the Facebook page.

## Christmas Pantomime

On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December MVP welcomed Gary Starr Travelling Productions to St John's Hall where they performed the popular family pantomime Dick Whittington and His Cat.

We want to thank the 280 people who came along to sing, shout &, most importantly, support Dick Whittington on his adventure to the Great City of London. This was the first time Gary Starr Pantomimes have performed in the village but, judging from the noise levels and the happy faces at the end of each show, they certainly didn't disappoint. The cast of professional actors definitely earned their gold after treating us to 90 minutes of good, clean, traditional fun, not once but three times that afternoon.

Each year, the MVP Pantomime proves to be one of the most popular, family-friendly Christmas events in the village. Watch out for news of this year's production later in 2017 or email [boxoffice@mortimervillage.org.uk](mailto:boxoffice@mortimervillage.org.uk) to be the first to hear details on how to get your hands on tickets.



## Other Local News

### Mortimer Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April



The fundraising Mortimer Easter Egg Hunt will take place on the Fairground on 15<sup>th</sup> April between 10:00 and 16:00. Maps for the Easter trail will be on sale for the four weeks prior in Budgens, Baobab Cafe 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 available in the Community Centre and parking will be on the fairground, so come along and bring your family and friends. All profits go to help improve learning equipment at Mortimer Preschool.

For more information about this event visit [facebook.com/MortimerEasterEggHunt/](https://facebook.com/MortimerEasterEggHunt/) Pre-school places are available from September 2017 for children aged 2 and over. Visit [www.mortimerpreschool.org.uk](http://www.mortimerpreschool.org.uk) for an application form and to find out more about this (Ofsted-rated) outstanding pre-school.

## Recycling for Good Causes

Many charities and other groups have fund raising schemes which involve collecting items for recycling which generate revenue. Our own Bag2School activity is one of these where old clothes and jumble are collected by St. John's, St. Mary's and Willink School PTAs, given to the Bag2School collector who pays a price per kilogramme.



Other groups collect a wide variety of things including printer cartridges, milk bottle tops, postage stamps, various forms of plastic packaging etc. All these items generate income for a good cause when sufficient mass is collected.

MVP would like to encourage more of this recycling, after all it keeps more items out of landfill as well as generating income. Recycling schemes that we are aware of in the village include:

<b>What is collected:</b>	<b>In aid of:</b>	<b>Where to leave:</b>
Bag2School scheme: Clothing, paired shoes, handbags, hats, bags, scarves, ties, jewellery, lingerie, socks, belts, soft toys, household linen, curtains, towels, bedding	St John's St. Mary's Willink PTAs	Kerbside Collection in most roads of Mortimer: Monday 20/03/2017 Monday 26/6/2017 Monday 16/10/2017
Postage stamps	Autism Berkshire	23 Victoria Rd
Plastic milk bottle tops	Naomi House & Berkshire Air Ambulance	Two Oaks, (bungalow at far end) Summerlug
Used bras	Against Breast Cancer	Baobab (old Mortimer PO)
Tassimo pods and the foil packaging Biscuit wrapper Plastic air fresheners Washing up bottle tops Plastic trigger heads off home cleaning sprays Flexible cleaning wipe packaging Baby food pouches	Grazeley School PTA	Baobab (old Mortimer PO)
Persil washing balls Coffee jar lids Instant coffee refill packaging Used ballpoint pens	Stepping Stones Downs Syndrome support	Baobab (old Mortimer PO)

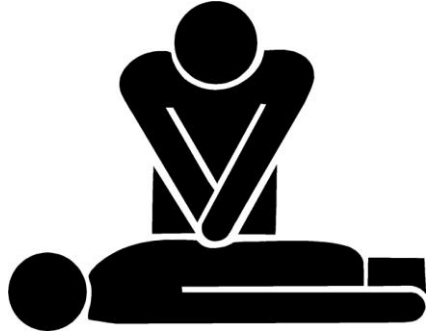
More details are available on the MVP website at

[http://www.mortimervillage.org.uk/Items\\_Collected\\_for\\_Charity\\_in\\_Mortimer.htm](http://www.mortimervillage.org.uk/Items_Collected_for_Charity_in_Mortimer.htm)

If you know of anything else that can be collected to raise money for a cause (it need not be a local cause) with a drop off point in Mortimer, please email the details to [mvp@morsley.me.uk](mailto:mvp@morsley.me.uk) so we can enter them on the website for all to see and help collect more.

## Free Heartstart Course – 28<sup>th</sup> March

Mortimer Village Partnership is organising another free Heartstart course at 7pm on 28<sup>th</sup> March in St. John's Hall. This 2.5 hour course will equip you to cope with a medical emergency until the emergency services arrive. It includes how to deal with an unconscious person, recognise a heart attack and a cardiac arrest, perform CPR, deal with choking, and respond to serious bleeding. You will get to practise CPR on a mannequin and will receive a certificate on successful completion. Up to 30 people may attend the course; about half the places are already booked.



To book a place please email [mvp@morsley.me.uk](mailto:mvp@morsley.me.uk).

## Patience & Hope

Followers of the MVP Facebook page will know that December was a month of great anticipation; a community coming together with downright determination, as two beautiful stray dogs proved very tricky to catch.

After two weeks of villagers putting out food in the hope the dogs would be caught, the Council dog warden attended and set two humane dog traps in residents' gardens. A Facebook group was formed to coordinate the baiting, with many local dog-lovers looking out for them every night. Over the subsequent two weeks the dogs managed to steal the food out of the traps without setting them off.

The first success came eventually when a beautiful lurcher was caught. The second dog continued to prove elusive, so local man Andy Newnham devised and built, from scratch, a huge trap as the dog was large and far too long for the traps already in place. At first the dog was wary and would not go in, so it was left in place until the dog became used to it. After several more very cold nights, the dog was safely caught in the large trap.

Thanks to Jackie McKerron (the main coordinator), Jake McKerron (her son), Andy Newnham, Ally Dennis and the residents of Mortimer, including the owners of the gardens where the traps were set up. They all worked hard and relentlessly to capture the animals.

Both dogs, affectionately named Patience and Hope, are now with their trial forever homes and are very much settled, healthy and happy at last.

## **MVP Contact Details**

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<b>Vice-chairman</b>	<b>Natasha O'Brien</b>	<a href="mailto:natasha@obrien.org.uk">natasha@obrien.org.uk</a>	996 2657
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Lynn Hannawin</b>	<a href="mailto:lynn@i-next.co.uk">lynn@i-next.co.uk</a>	933 2577
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Louise Strange</b>	<a href="mailto:louise_strange@btinternet.com">louise_strange@btinternet.com</a>	
<b>Affiliates Secretary</b>	<b>Julie Carter</b>	<a href="mailto:juliecarter396@btinternet.com">juliecarter396@btinternet.com</a>	933 2265

*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 meet at 7:30pm at the Methodist Hall, West End Road on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month (except August & December). 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](http://www.mortimervillage.org.uk)

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

