

Mortimer Village Partnership

Newsletter

October 2013

All this and more available on our website

www.mortimervillage.org.uk



Welcome to our autumn newsletter. As summer draws to a close, we reflect on an extremely busy year and hugely successful Fun Day. We must now turn our attention to events over the next few months through to 2014 – a scary thought! As usual MVP is busy striving to bring people from all parts of our community closer together whether through entertainment, better communication links, volunteering, holding events for specific groups within our community or just plain celebrating what a vibrant community we live in. We look forward to seeing you at some or all of the activities and events!

Our village calendar caters for everyone, from age 2 to 102, so keep an eye on our website and our notice board outside Budgens where we have a monthly calendar displayed. I'm sure you will agree huge thanks are due to all those who make this possible. Your comments are always welcome, as are willing volunteers; contact us through any of our committee members, our web site on www.mortimervillage.org.uk or via our Facebook page. If you have an idea you would like to explore or want to be put in contact with like-minded people, do drop us a line, we'd love to hear from you.

Julie Carter - MVP Chairman

Forthcoming MVP Events

21st October - Bag2School

You should receive your Bag2School bag during the first two weeks of October. Please start clearing out your wardrobes and filling your bag(s). We will be driving round the village at 9 a.m. on Monday 21st October collecting them. Help us to make this year even more successful than last. So far this year our 2 collections have raised £1827 so your old clothes definitely don't go to waste – every little helps!! The proceeds are shared between St. John's School, St. Mary's School and MVP.



Bag2School collect the following for Re-use: Clothing, bedding, soft toys, paired shoes, hats, belts and handbags - NO BRIC-A-BRAC PLEASE!

2014 dates: Mon 17th March, Mon 23rd June and Mon 20th October

If you'd like to get involved and help either delivering bags or driving around helping with the roadside collection please email bag2school@analytics.co.uk

26th October – 3rd November - Simon Says “Follow the Scarecrow Trail”

The Scarecrow Trail 2013 will be taking place over the autumn half term from Saturday 26th October to Sunday 3rd November. All being well, the scarecrows will be on show daily from 9 a.m. to dusk each day, with the trail finishing at 4 p.m. on Sunday 3rd. This is the fourth scarecrow trail MVP has organised for Mortimer.



With “stars” such as Incy Wincy Spider, Dr Foster and Little Bo Peep already lined up to take part, it promises to be another exciting event and an excellent way of keeping the kids – both small and big alike – entertained during the half term week.

Simon also says “Your vote counts,” as once again trail followers can vote for their choice of scarecrow in each one of three winning categories. Trail followers can also play the “Simon Says” trail competition, details of which will be on the trail map, for a chance to win £50 ! And if you want to be among the first to know who the Scarecrow Trail 2013 winners are, then come along to the Community Centre, from 6 to 6.30pm, on Sunday 3rd November where MVP will be presenting the prizes.



Trail maps will cost £1 and will be available from Budgens, Dads Shop and McColls from Friday 25th October.

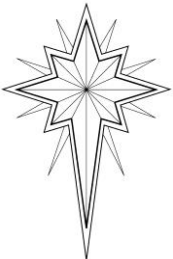
Go on, **follow the Scarecrow Trail** and join in the fun!

7th December - Christmas Market & Santa's Grotto

Back by popular demand, MVP will be putting on a spectacular Christmas Market & Santa's Grotto on Saturday 7th December, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Methodist Church on West End Road. Lots of stalls selling Christmas goodies, plus a cafe where you can purchase hot & cold drinks, savoury snacks and various cakes. Santa and his elves will be in residence once



again to welcome your children into his magical grotto. Last year Santa's slots sold out fast so be sure to keep your eye on MVP's website, Facebook page and noticeboards for more information - tickets will go on sale from 1st November.



21st December – It's Panto Time – Oh Yes It Is!

Brought to Mortimer by MVP, Pyramid Productions, a UK-based professional touring theatre company, will be performing *Dick Whittington* in St John's Hall, Mortimer, on Saturday 21st December.



Get the Christmas holidays off to an exciting start by bringing the family along to this popular seasonal pantomime, which is suitable for ages from 3 to adult. Subsidised by MVP with approximately £400 of the proceeds from last year's Scarecrow Trail, tickets are just £6.00 per child and £9.00 per adult and will be available to buy from Saturday 9th November. For further information and/or to buy tickets, please call Lynn on 9332577 or email lynn@i-next.co.uk

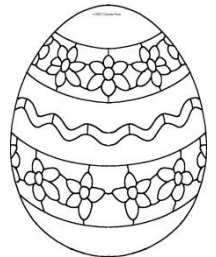
Doors will open at 2 p.m. with the performance starting at 2:30 p.m. and finishing at approximately 4:15 p.m. Refreshments, novelties and raffle tickets – for a children's raffle - will be on sale prior to the show and during the 20 minute interval.

Looking forward to seeing you for a fun-filled afternoon!

P.S. Do you like Alex Collington's picture of Dick Whittington and his cat against a Mortimer sky-line?

12th – 19th April MVP Easter Egg activities!

Take part in the Great Mortimer Easter Egg Hunt from the 12th to the 19th April. Look out for more information and pink bunnies early next year!



10th May 2014 - MVP Spring Ball

As a thank you to the village for all the support and encouragement the MVP has received since its creation we have organised a meal and disco at DeVere Venues Wokefield Park on Saturday 10th May 2014 from 19:00 – 23:30.

Tickets cost £48 per person and include a three course meal with ½ bottle of wine, live music on arrival by Steve Grant, and a disco (60's/70's/80's etc.) by Alec Burrell, ex-member of the Spectators.

Tickets will be on sale from 1st Feb 2014. Look out on our website www.mortimervillage.org.uk, MVP Facebook page and posters in the village for details of how to obtain tickets.





Should there be sufficient interest a coach could be provided to take guests to and from the venue; the cost would be dependent on the number of interested people and would be additional to the £48.

Please note that this is not a fund-raising event, so you will not be asked for any contributions throughout the evening.

Future MVP dates for your diary – don't go away!

- **17th – 18th May MVP Sports Weekend**
- **5th July - MVP Fun Day**

Other MVP Items

Mortimer Fun Day 2013 Report

We hope that you all enjoyed the Mortimer Fun Day as much as we did with wonderful weather - such as contrast to last year! Pictures and facts about the day are on www.mortmervillage.org.uk and MVP Facebook page plus a short clip of this year's Fun Day is on YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JTKGoeVum8o>). You will also find even more photos on Dara Portraits Facebook page



to change lives

We are pleased to report that this year's two Fun Day beneficiaries will be receiving their donations at the Scarecrow Trail presentation afternoon on Sunday 3rd November between 6 and 6:30 p.m. in the Community Centre. Come along and chat with representatives from Thrive and Mortimer and Burghfield First Responders to find out just what they will be spending their donations on.

As always I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all our sponsors, local businesses, local groups and individuals that give their time, money, blood, sweat and tears to make this event happen every year. It makes me proud to be part of such a wonderful community.



Rebecca Barker, Fun Day Project Manager 2011 - 2013

Mortimer Fun Day 2014 with you

Dear Volunteers,

As autumn draws in, MVP's thoughts are already turning to next year's Fun Day. As you may know this year it took more than a hundred volunteers "on the day" however it was only 9 people who, to a greater or lesser extent, did all the "heavy lifting" before the event, with much of that carried by our project leader Rebecca Barker. Rebecca, quite understandably, after 3 years, has decided to step down for a well-deserved rest and, with the core team down to 5 or 6 people, we now run the risk of having to discontinue the event.

Mortimer Fun Day is now firmly fixed in the village calendar and attracts people from a wide area.... After such a successful and enjoyable event this year, it would be very sad to now let it die...

but... IT DOESN'T HAVE TO!

If MVP had a team of volunteers, who committed to support us in the early planning, say 20 or 30 people, then it would be a very small individual commitment for everyone. I hear people say that they are only happy to help on the day...or they do not have time, while many feel they are just not "committee" type people.

Well here's the good news.....there is no need to be entwined in committee meetings and endless local bureaucracy, since there isn't any and if we have enough people then the time commitment is as much or as little as you can offer.

MVP knows that the village wants to support this event and indeed many people, wrapped up in the excitement on the day, suggested their willingness to help more..... But of course we need to hear from them.

So how can you get on board?

Of course email or phone to doug.overett@gmail.com or 07738 470870
But also we plan a **2014 Fun Day social at the Horse & Groom** for everyone to say hello, on November 12th at 7.30 p.m.; please do call me or email me to let me know you are coming, so we can let the pub know numbers...but otherwise just pop in, for 10 minutes, for a pint... or for the evening.... but most importantly to say hello and get your name on the list!

We look forward to seeing you on the 12th
...or contact me anytime.

Doug Overett
For MVP



MVP Lunch Club

MVP lunch club continues to go from strength to strength. We have a wonderful team of volunteers who serve at tables and generally do all the hard work that is necessary to run the event twice a month.



We are now looking for people who would love to come along and just chat!

Yes, just chat with the people that come to our club over a bowl of soup once or twice a month as suits you. If you would like to enrich your own life by getting to know the wonderful people that come to our lunch club please contact Rebecca Barker at bbarkerdg@sky.com or 9332008. We meet on the second and last Thursday of the month over the lunch period.

Are we ready for another Heartstart course?



MVP organised two Heartstart training courses last winter. These are free, take about 2.5 hours, and cover CPR and basic emergency lifesaving training – they help you feel more confident in coping if someone collapses in front of you. It is a serious subject made fun by an amazing instructor and is suitable for all adults and those over 11 years.

We will organise another one if there is enough interest; we need to know if people would like a daytime course (easier to organise) or an evening course (I can probably only get a free hall on a Friday evening). Phone 9332620 or email mvp@morsley.me.uk with your name and contact details if you are interested, indicating day or evening or either.

MVP Theatre Trips

MVP is pleased to offer the following trips to London Theatreland. The price shown is per person and includes coach. **Tickets must be booked and paid for by the date in brackets.**

The Bodyguard	Weds 6 th Nov 2013	£40	(13 th Oct 2013)
Let It Be	Weds 15 th Jan 2014	£43	(20 th Oct 2013)
The 39 Steps	Weds 19 th Mar 2014	£35	(20 th Oct 2013)
Miss Saigon	Weds 14 th Oct 2014	£59.20	(7 th Nov 2013)

Coaches leave Mortimer at 4/4:30pm depending on show time and drop outside the theatre with a return into Mortimer by midnight. Tickets are secured by a completed booking form and remittance fee. All tickets are limited so book early to avoid disappointment!

Get more information about these trips and a booking form from www.mortimervillage.org.uk or by contacting Rebecca Barker on 9332008 or bbarkerdg@sky.com. For advance notice of future trips please ask to be put on our mailing list (email only).



A Brilliant Mortimer Calendar for 2014

MVP is having a fantastic 2014 calendar printed, beautifully illustrated with stunning A4 photographs of Mortimer donated by Dara Portraits. With enough space for you to plan attending all the Mortimer events, they are a must-have accessory for 2014. They will be on sale in Dara Portraits and Budgens for £7.50 from early October. They can also be obtained directly from Rebecca Barker (9332008 bbarkerdg@sky.com) or Danusia (9332620 danusia@morsley.me.uk). They make brilliant Christmas presents to send to your friends and family elsewhere in the world.



Clubs, Charities and Other Local Things

1st Mortimer BP Scout Group (MVP affiliate)

The last weekend of August saw children from the 1st Mortimer BP Cub and Scout Group head off to Rushalls Farm, Bradfield to take part in 'Camp Eagle Eye'. The weather was very kind and meant that all the cubs attending could achieve their Athlete badge, meeting the criteria in a variety of running, jumping and throwing activities. All the cubs also achieved their Observer badge which involved, among other things, following a trail of tracking signs, compass directions and cryptic clues.



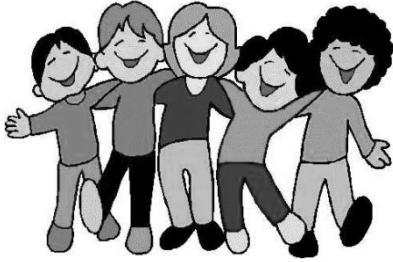
All of the cubs impressed with the effort they put in and rose to the occasion during the evening campfire with the toasted marshmallows going down very well. The traditional campfire singsong was more enthusiastic than tuneful, but the comic sketches that all the children performed were a definite highlight. Everyone enjoyed the camp stew we had on our

second evening, made over an open fire. Particular congratulations should go to the two lads who were invested into the group on Sunday morning - we welcome them to the group and wish them a very happy scouting future.

The 1st Mortimer BP cubs meet on Tuesday evenings at the Scout Hut on Birch Lane. We have vacancies as some cubs have just moved up to scouts. And a new Akela as well, Stefan Morsley, who was there himself as a cub and now teaches at Silchester. For more information contact Bagheera (Chris Morsley) on 9332620 or chris@morsley.me.uk . You are welcome to come and visit.



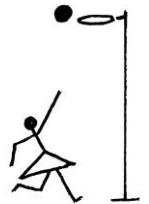
Mortimer Youth Club (MVP affiliate)



By the time you are all reading this Youth Club will hopefully have employed a new Leader! Despite that, we are still looking for more volunteers to help out on the occasional Thursday evening. If you have any spare time please contact Amanda Buttimore on 0776 524 2340 or email her at amandabuttimore@yahoo.com.

Mortimer Netball Club (MVP affiliate)

Had a phenomenal season! The official Reading & District Netball League ended in June as the bad weather earlier in the year meant many matches had to be rescheduled prolonging the season. Awards went to Mortimer Pinks who finished top of Division 3 and to Mortimer Blacks who were runners up in Division 4. Both teams have very proudly been promoted for the new season which started on 4th September. We're really pleased that due to the number of new members joining us we've been able to enter a third midweek team, Mortimer Whites. Along with our new Saturday team, Mortimer Mavericks, we're all looking forward to another successful season, good luck Ladies! Our results will be posted on our Facebook page as well and the RDNL website.



At the end of June we went "on tour" for the first time. 2 teams went to Bognor Regis where everyone had a fantastic weekend of fun and netball. The Club really enjoyed being involved in the Mortimer Fun Day in July and saw lots of local talent in our shooting competition!

If you're interested in playing, come and try a training session with us on a Monday evening - even if you haven't played in a while please get in touch, we'd love to hear from you! Email info@mortimernetballclub.co.uk

MORTIMERMUSIC^{live.} (MVP affiliate)

MortimerMusicLIVE's first outdoor festival in June was a great success, despite the terrible weather on the day, with around 1000 attendees. Many positive comments were received about the acts, notably the Willink Soul Band and local acts The Jason Hendrix Experience, Reheat and Nicolette Street. There's a clear demand for more events and another festival so the team is keen to hear from you if you're interested to help in any way. Please email us at mortimermusiclive@gmail.com or call for a chat on 9333602.

Mortimer Music Live is a not for profit MVP Affiliated Group.

Burghfield Camera Club (MVP affiliate)

Invites visitors to the following three speakers:

31 st Oct	Bob Brind-Surch	My Digital Workflow
7 th Nov	David Sherwill	The Art of Portraiture
14 th Nov	Ruari AL Cumming ARPS	Hebridean Hopscotch Part 3

All meetings in St. Oswalds Church Hall, Burghfield Common 7:45 p.m. for 9 p.m. Visitors are welcome to attend 3 times for free before joining. More details <http://www.burghfieldcameraclub.co.uk/>

Mortimer Film Club (MVP Affiliate)

Our season started with "Made in Dagenham" on 18th September; this outstanding film told the story of Ford's lady car-seat makers holding out for equal pay – terrific. Nine more excellent films chosen by the members will be shown on the third Wednesday of each month in the Community Centre at 19:30 for 20:00. For all the lurid details click on http://www.mortimervillage.org.uk/modules/calendar_events/filmclub.htm

St. John's School PTA

This year we will be holding the Bonfire and Firework night on the field behind St. John's School on Saturday 9th November. The gates will open at 5 p.m. with the bonfire being lit at 6 p.m. and the fireworks at 6.30pm. Access will be on foot only down the lane in between the school and the Horse and Groom



pub. Please park in the village and walk down. Tickets will be on sale from St. John's School, Mortimer Post Office, Dad's Shop and Wellers in Burghfield Common. Adults tickets are priced at £3 (£4 on the gate) and children £2 (£3 on the gate). This year the Scouts will be providing a hog roast along with their usual selection of hot dogs, soup and hot drinks.

Café B, Reading Road, Burghfield Common

Café B reopened at the beginning of September after a summer break. Open on Monday and Wednesdays, they are now operating a Customer Loyalty Card scheme whereby you can collect points and get your 6th tea or coffee free! And they are serving bacon baps!



Building Friendships

We are a fortunate generation who are lucky enough to be able to travel and move around wherever our career or family may take us. Too often this means we lose touch with old friends and elderly relatives until it's too late. This is why TiM Befriending service is so important for our



community. Since the quite recent launch of TiM friends we have linked six volunteers with lonely and isolated people in Mortimer. That is a really good start to the project.

Ann says, "I am visiting a lovely lady, she hears the gate shut and gives me a wave every time I arrive. Then we go for a walk and stop and chat about how Budgens is coming along." Marion says, "If it wasn't for my friend visiting me I would be housebound." As you can see this service is really making a difference. It couldn't be done without these wonderful volunteers!

If you could give as little as an hour once a week or fortnight, by visiting or phoning a friend you will be making a huge impact to someone's life. Just pick up a leaflet in the local shops, library, surgery, or look on the notice boards around the village. Alternatively visit www.togetherinmission.org.uk
TiM Friends need you!!

Carol Singing round the Village Tree - Call for Musicians

I am gathering a group of local musicians to play for the Community Carol singing around the Christmas tree on the Fairground on Saturday, December 14th (6:00 – 6:45 p.m.). If you would like to join us for this popular event please contact Brian Baldwin on 9332569 or email info@togetherinmission.org.uk



We hope the whole village will come and join us in the carol singing!

Want to Practice Your Spanish?



A new opportunity to learn Spanish in Mortimer with Marina Swainston-Harrison. If you know a little (or a lot!) you are invited to her next Spanish Coffee Morning with Coffee, Cake and Spanish (cost £5) Friday 18th October from 10 -11 a.m.
gmglobal@yahoo.com / 07903 622 450 for more information and to book your place.

Mortimer Art Show

On the 2nd and 3rd November between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. local artists will be displaying a variety of original paintings in many media and various styles together with some unframed work and cards in St. John's Hall, West End Rd.



Relaxing background music, some live, adds to the informal atmosphere and friendly welcome which await all our visitors and admission is FREE! There will be a raffle for an original painting and everyone will be asked to vote for their favourite picture. All proceeds are donated to local charities.

Mortimer Past and Present

Domesday Project

In 1986 the BBC launched an ambitious project to record a snapshot of everyday life across the UK for future generations. A million volunteers took part including some from Mortimer. You can read all kinds of fascinating description of 1985 Mortimer and see various photographs here:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/domesday/dblock/GB-464000-162000>

See what St. John's children put in a time capsule and what else people thought to write about – nature walks, provision for the aged, the farm shop, railway station and children's jokes among many others!

How many public recreation grounds does Mortimer have?



The answer is two. Everyone knows the Fairground, but do you know about the 'Alfred Palmer Memorial Field'? Alfred Palmer, a member of the Palmer family, proprietors of the Huntley & Palmers biscuit manufacturers of Reading, had his country estate at Wokefield Park. He died in 1936 aged 84 and is buried in St. Mary's Churchyard. In his memory his five grandchildren donated the field to the right of the Turners Arms. This is managed by a charitable trust whose purpose is to "...hold the land ...as a public ground for the resort and recreation of and as playgrounds for or otherwise for the benefit of the

inhabitants of the Parishes of Mortimer and Wokefield." As you enter the field from West End Road you will see two stone gateposts and if you look very closely at the stones there are two barely legible inscriptions commemorating this.

Budgens New Store

We have received very generous help from Budgens ever since we started MVP; we are really pleased to see the new store growing and look forward to it opening and shopping in it!

Budgens

Next issue...

How many commons does Mortimer have? Look out for the answer to this and other snippets of historical interest in the next issue. Short contributions from readers welcome subject to space available (email to mvp@morsley.me.uk)

MVP needs an Auditor, please

Is there someone out there who values what MVP brings to the village and would be willing to audit our annual accounts? Please contact our chairman Julie Carter (9332265) or our treasurer Rebecca Barker (9332008)



Mortimer Village Communications

We apologise to all those who signed up for our monthly e-bulletin. We have experienced technical difficulties which meant many people did not receive the bulletin – it ended up in their service provider's spam filter. For the moment the service is suspended but we hope to find solution in the future and resume sending it out.



In the meantime our Mortimer Village Partnership Facebook group is proving a most popular method of communication. We now have well over 500 members who join in the lively exchange of useful local information. More members welcome – it is a closed group and we have two administrators who do a splendid job of making sure all the posts adhere to the aims of the group.



Volunteers to help with MVP newsletter delivery always needed – please contact Pete Blagden 9332546. Volunteers to deliver in Wokefield, Mortimer West End, and Beech Hill most welcome as well as Mortimer itself.

MVP Contact Details

Chairman – Julie Carter juliecarter396@btinternet.com 9332265
Vice-chairman – Danusia Morsley danusia@morsley.me.uk 9332620
Secretary – Lynn Hannawin lynn@i-next.co.uk 9332577
Affiliates Secretary - Michelle Goulding m.goulding@sky.com 9333945
General enquiries - mvp@morsley.me.uk 9332620

We are still receiving help from Greenham Common Trust for which we are very grateful; they contribute half the cost of printing of this newsletter which is delivered free of charge to 2000 households.

