



Mortimer Village Partnership Newsletter

Autumn 2011

www.mortimervillage.org.uk

Welcome to MVP's Autumn Newsletter.

Our Village has been buzzing with events and activities over the summer. We held a tremendously successful **Fun Day** and we do hope that all of you who came along enjoyed the day as much as we did. Even the weather was kind to us! It now seems ages ago that we held the event and it will not be long before we are turning our minds to next year!

We are very pleased to report that we will be distributing **£4000 to local groups**. St John's Hall will receive £1000 towards their much needed new roof, the Community Centre will get £1000 to finally purchase their curtains, the Youth Club will receive £1000 to support the young people of the village undertaking their Duke of Edinburgh Awards and finally a further £1000 will be distributed in £100 lots to various local groups – the first to benefit are Mortimer St John's and St Mary's Schools and Mortimer Mother and Toddler Group.



This event could not have happened without a great deal of support from **Burghfield and Sulhamstead Scouts and Together in Mission** also, our **sponsors, local organisations and business** in our community. Our heartfelt thanks go to all of them and also to the army of volunteers who freely gave their time to run the stalls and activities; their muscles to set up marquees and move furniture, and their donations for tombola, raffle and cakes.

There will be a formal handing over the cheques to the beneficiaries of the Fun Day on **Sunday 30th October at 4.30pm in the Community Centre**. This will be immediately before the winners of the scarecrow trail are announced. **Please come along and join us.**

Finally like all such things this kind of event doesn't just run it's self. Although the army of volunteers are vital we do desperately need people who would be willing to help manage areas. I won't pretend it is something that can be done in five minutes – you will need to commit to a number of evenings – but please do consider coming along to help run this event – we can with all honesty say there is nothing so satisfying as looking out over the field on the day and to know that you made that happen! Please call or email Rebecca Barker 9332008, bbarkerdg@sky.com if you would like to talk about helping in this way.

Take a look at all the activities and events taking place in the village this autumn.....



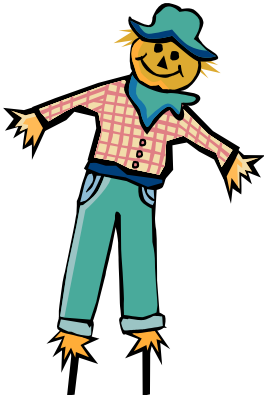
Bag2school – Tuesday 4th October

Once again it's time to look out all your unwanted clothes to assist St John's and St Mary's schools and the Mortimer Village Partnership in their second hand clothing collection fundraiser. A number of areas of the village will have received bags to collect unwanted clothes in good condition. You can also include handbags, belts, shoes, soft toys, bed linen, curtains and blankets (no bric-a-brac, duvets, pillows or material off cuts please)

We provide one bag to get you started but please feel free to fill as many as you like – and leave in a prominent place at the front of your home by **9am on Tuesday 4th October**. Alternately you may take your bags directly to St John's School by 9am on Wednesday 5th October.

The money raised from our last collection was divided equally between the two schools and the MVP so YOUR COMMUNITY directly benefits from your donations. So please do have a good clear out!

If you do not receive a bag by Friday 30th September then your area is not on our collection route this time but if you can get together with your neighbours and fill 10 bags, then call Rebecca Barker on 9332008, and we will arrange to collect from you.



Mortimer Scarecrow Trail 2011

This year's Scarecrow Trail will be running over the October half term holiday, from **Saturday 22nd October to Sunday 30th October**.

Trail maps will be available from **Friday 21st October** and can be purchased from **Budgens** and **McColls**. Again there will be a competition for all those completing the trail with a chance to win **£50.00** – the winning entry will be drawn from all the correct entries.

We also need you to vote for your top three scarecrows and the three scarecrows with the most votes will each win a prize. Voting forms can be found on the trail maps.

The prizes for the top three scarecrows and the drawing of the trail competition winner, will take place at a prize presentation on **Sunday 30th October, 2011, 4.30 – 5.30 pm at the Community Centre**

We would like to thank **Spratleys of Mortimer** and **Parkers** who are sponsoring this year's event, and also **Budgens** and **McColls** for their continuing support

Mortimer Energy Initiative

Since its launch at the Mortimer Fun Day, the Mortimer Energy Initiative has begun to gather pace. Organised by **John Langford (01189 331598)** the Initiative encourages the uptake of Solar PV systems within the village and outlying areas.



John has negotiated a fantastic discount scheme with an Installer well known in the Reading area as a competitive and professional Solar PV installation company with several years experience in the renewable energy field.

So far 19 surveys have been carried out leading to four orders of which two have already been successfully installed. Agreed, retrospective discounts will be paid once the scheme closes. The more installations completed the greater the discount.

The scheme closes to new enquiries at the end of October, so don't miss out on this opportunity to have a top quality Solar PV system, professionally installed, and take advantage of the Feed in Tariff which is due for review next April.

Contact John Langford for further details. jandslangford@tiscali.co.uk 01189 331598



MVP Theatre Club

Fancy going to the theatre but don't want the drive and parking hassles?

Want to go to see a show but don't want to go alone?

Why not join the MVP Theatre Club? We have organised, escorted trips to London Theatreland and regional theatres. Email me, Rebecca Barker, on bbarkerdq@sky.com and I will put you on the mailing list; alternatively look out for further events on the village notice boards or the village website.

Stop press Latest event is a tour of the Houses of Parliament and Churchill War Rooms on Friday 4th November *Limited spaces*. See website for details or contact Rebecca Barker bbarkerdq@sky.com 9332008



Website Don't forget to check out events and information on the MVP website www.mortimervillage.org.uk

Mortimer Netball Club was started in October 2010 and with 2 teams entered in the winter league this season, we hope to be around for many moons to come. We are proud to have a team in the Reading and District Netball League (Division 3) and another in the Basingstoke Netball League (Division 5). This is our first competitive season and we would like to thank our coaching team Julie Telford and Melanie James, for their commitment, effort and patience in training and we wish our teams the best of luck.



As a new club it was an easy choice to join the MVP when we found out about it. For the very small fee of £10 per year it was possible for us as a young club to partner with the MVP not just to get the word out that we are here, but also to meet with other local clubs and societies in our area.

We've already made good use of the printing and laminating service, which we found affordable and efficient. Use of the MVP's equipment came in handy when we needed display stands, flipcharts and a gazebo for our AGM, the Burghfield May Fair and the Mortimer Fun Day. Equipment is conveniently stored locally and we found the process of arranging collection and delivery straight forward and flexible.

We were able to attend a pleasant Breakfast morning sponsored by TIM, hosted by the MVP where a very informative workshop was held. It gave us good ideas and useful tactics to implement in managing our club. Speaking to other members of local clubs who are dealing with the same challenges as us, was very interesting. We enjoyed finding out about them, how their clubs started, what they are all about and what their hopes and dreams are for the future.

Mortimer Netball Club is happy to be affiliated to the MVP and we look forward the next Breakfast morning where we can meet more people from local groups. For more information contact Lindsay Williams – Founder / Chair Person

Mobile: 077 8714 3280 Email: info@mortimermumsnetball.co.uk Visit: www.mortimermumsnetball.co.uk

Mortimer and District Flower Circle - A view from a new(ish) member

Two years ago my sister in law invited me to go along with her to a club, as she knew I am interested in gardening and all things to do with flowers and plants, she thought I would enjoy it. She was right! On that first evening the demonstrator was wonderful, full of entertaining chat, which had us all chuckling away and she soon filled the stage with flowers of all colours and in a number of different designs. To top it all I won one of the arrangements in the raffle at the end of the evening - a fabulous evening's entertainment, and all for £3.50! I was hooked. Eventually I realised that flower arranging is about far more than just flowers. Some also combine fabrics and other materials into their designs, many of which really could be called works of art as different colours, textures and materials are combined to produce amazing results. As well as the usual ceramics and basket ware, I have seen old satellite dishes, bits of cars and washing machine doors used as containers – the only constraint is your imagination it seems!

Needless to say I am now choosing plants for my garden with an eye to how I might use the foliage in the future and I have my own little nursery of cuttings, which is not only great because they are 'free' plants, but they also remind me either the people who gave them to me or the place where I collected them – with permission of course! Members can bring along plants, produce, cuttings from their own gardens, which are sold on a 'bring and buy' table.

The members are friendly and welcoming, and many have a wealth of knowledge and expertise themselves that they are happy to share. I was able to buy all of the oasis and other materials, I needed, very cheaply, at the club sales table to get me started.



I have never been short of enthusiasm – skill is another thing, however I persevered with my entries at the monthly competition and hope that the demonstrator, who is often a qualified judge, will offer a little helpful and encouraging advice. I continue to practise between meetings as supermarket flowers are plentiful, cheap and usually last well, so my hall table is never without an arrangements of sorts, which makes our home more welcoming.

So, if you are interested in plants and flowers, want to learn more about flower arranging or just watch others create their own designs, do come along to one of the meetings. On the **second Monday of the month at St John's Hall, Mortimer, except in October when it will be on the first Monday, 3rd October.**

Doors open at 7:15pm.

Entrance fee for visitors is £4, annual membership £20.

We look forward to seeing you!

Book Club

Mortimer Book Club meets monthly in each other's houses. We have sadly had to turn down requests from people wishing to join as it is not practicable to accommodate more than 12 people.

However, **Pat Swift** is willing to help coordinate a 2nd book club in the village.

If you are interested in joining, please contact **Pat on 07947411654** pat2556@yahoo.co.uk



MVP Christmas cards



A small team are currently organising Christmas cards, to go on sale about October/November time, again using some of the beautiful images of Mortimer and taken by local photographer Jason Smith. <http://www.jasonsmithphoto.co.uk> Keep an eye out in Amicus for when they go on sale. We also hope that we can offer a calendar this year!

The **Mortimer Local History Group** meets every 3rd Thursday of the month at the Mortimer Methodist Church Rooms at 8pm. Our aim is to collect and document the history of Mortimer and its surrounding areas and thus be able to educate and archive as time goes by. We cover a wide range of topics and have visiting speakers, as well as outings over the course of the year to nearby places of interest. We have published books on Mortimer and have an extensive amount of information in our archives. All visitors are welcome – just pop in.

Contact **Caroline Owen on 0118-9332533**



MVP Lunch Club

Do you know of an elderly person who would like a little company? The **MVP Lunch Club** is kindly sponsored by **DeVere Venues Wakefield Park** and the school caterers **Dolce**. It meets twice a month on a Thursday for soup and a roll and a chance to meet old friends and make new ones. Transport can be arranged. We have spaces available at the moment so if you would like to join in please call Cindy Kimber on 0118 9331767.

Would you like a rewarding volunteering opportunity?

The MVP is looking for people to help at the Lunch Club.

If you would like to join our team please email Rebecca Barker on bbarkerdg@sky.com

Youth Club



Following the summer break Mortimer Youth Club is up and running every Thursday evening 7-9pm at the Community Centre. The club is open to all year 7's upwards, you can come along to any session without prior arrangement.

This Term, in addition to the regular sessions, there are some special trips planned:-

20th October - Reading Climbing Centre

17th November - Ice Skating

5th December - Willink Leisure Centre various sports including trampolines, Uni hoc, football & badminton

All other weeks will be normal Youth Club



Help is at hand to switch to digital TV

TV is switching to digital all over the UK and in 2012 the traditional TV signal will be switched off in the Meridian region. If you don't have digital TV by the time of switchover, you will lose your TV channels

The BBC-run Switchover Help Scheme is concerned that no-one is left with a blank screen after the switchover and offers practical help for older and disabled people to convert one TV set to digital, including installation of the easy-to-use equipment, a demonstration of how to use it and 12 months of aftercare service including a free helpline.

Eligible people have been sent a Help Scheme information pack through the post explaining the help available. Most people will be asked to pay £40 towards the standard option of help.

You are eligible for the Help Scheme if you are:

- aged 75 or over, or
- live in a care home (for six months or more), or
- receive (or could get):
 - o Disability Living Allowance (DLA), or
 - o Attendance or Constant Attendance Allowance, or
 - o Mobility Supplement, or
- registered blind or partially sighted



There will be extensive TV coverage about the Help Scheme and eligible people

will receive an information pack but to get the help they are entitled to they must respond to the letter. /

The Switchover Help Scheme has helped hundreds of thousands of people to switch to digital. For more information, call **0800 40 85 900** or visit www.helpscheme.co.uk.

Perhaps you know someone who needs a helping hand at Switchover time? If so, please contact **Sarah Ward at The Community Council for Berkshire** sarah.ward@ccberks.org.uk 0118 9612000

Mortimer & District Branch RNLI
Christmas Fair
Saturday 19th November 2011
9.30am – 3pm
St Johns Hall, Mortimer
Admission free

We would appreciate any good quality items you may be willing to donate for sale on the following stalls:

Seasonal Foods~ Cakes & Preserves~ Christmas Decorations
Costume Jewellery~ Fashion Accessories~ Pictures~ China & Glass
Collectables~ Children's Toys & Games~ DVDs and CDs

It would be appreciated if you were able to deliver to us. Please call for nearest location.

For information please ring one of the following numbers
01189 761395 : 01189 333741 : 01189 833101 : 01256 881182

RNLI Christmas Cards, Calendars, Diaries & Souvenirs will be on sale.

Last year's event raised more than £1,126 for the RNLI

Thank you for helping raise money for RNLI

The Christmas Fair is held each year in November to raise money for the Lifeboats. We offer items for sale that are in a suitable condition to be used as Christmas gifts or decorations or which can be consumed as a part of the Christmas festivities. It would be appreciated when donating items if you could bear the above in mind.

We always have a huge demand for seasonal foods, cakes and preserves. If you are prepared to commit yourself to help us meet this demand by kindly offering to donate some items and bring them along early on the day of the sale please call one of the numbers on the previous page.

Some RNLI Facts - rnli.org.uk

The cost of running the RNLI averages £398,000 each day.

For every pound raised 84 pence is spent on operations and 16 pence is spent on generating the income.

The RNLI fleet has more than 330 active lifeboats and about 115 lifeboats in a relief fleet.

The lifeboats vary in type from small rigid inflatable boats, used in rescues close to the shore, to 17 metre all-weather vessels that are used in rescues that are in the open sea.

In 2010: There were 8,713 lifeboat launches and 8,313 people were rescued.

Surprisingly most launches occurred during light to moderate winds.

34% of launches were in the dark.

There were 15 lifeboat launches on Christmas day.

MVP Action Group

The MVP Action Group is a group of people who have come together to make the community actions in the Parish Plan happen. We would welcome new people to come and join us to take forward new projects for our community. Please contact any of us for more information. We are always actively looking for new members who can bring fresh ideas and initiatives to our village.

Brian	Baldwin	brianbrendabaldwin@talk21.com	John	Foley	deaconjohn@vellinder.co.uk
Rebecca	Barker	bbarkerdq@sky.com	Lynn	Hannawin	Lynn@i-next.co.uk
Pete	Blagden	pete.blagden@btinternet.com	Danusia	Morsley	mvp@morsley.me.uk
John	Bull	spectrumpm@btinternet.com	Alison	Richardson	Alison.richardson1@virginmedia.com
Julie	Carter	juliecarter396@btinternet.com	Carl	Whistler	carl.whistler@btinternet.com

Affiliated Groups

The following groups have affiliated to MVP. You can find out more about them on our website

www.mortimervillage.org.uk

Burghfield Camera Club	graham.crawford@burghfieldcameraclub.co.uk
Mortimer Book Club	danusia@morsley.me.uk
Mortimer Dramatic Society	John Bull 9333741
Mortimer & District Flower Circle	9333929
1 st Mortimer Brownies	firstmortimerbrownies@hotmail.co.uk
Mortimer Toddlers	diane_leighton@yahoo.co.uk
1 st Mortimer BP Scout Group	933 2147
Mortimer Mums Netball Club	lwilliams@mortimermumsnetball.co.uk
St. Oswald's Church	971 5350
Mortimer Film Club	pete.blagden@btinternet.com
Mortimer Gardening Club	wireman.jc@tiscali.co.uk
Mortimer Youth Club	email@mcbean.go-plus.net
Mortimer Local History Group	cojackdaw@aol.com
Mortimer Tennis Club	john_crisp@btconnect.com
Mortimer & District Branch of the RNLI	John Bull 9333741

If your group or organisation would like to become affiliated to the MVP then please contact Lynn Hannawin on 9332577 or at lynn@i-next.co.uk



Once again Mortimer Village Partnership sends grateful thanks to Greenham Common Trust for printing this newsletter

