

# Mortimer Village Partnership Newsletter



Mortimer Village Partnership  
Enriching Village Life

October 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**

## A Busy Time For The MVP

The MVP calendar is always busy and in this issue you will read reports about recent activities and details of future events, but keeping the MVP on the road unfortunately takes a lot of unseen back-room work as well.

We are working busily on the next phase of the MVP development, which is to establish the MVP as a registered charity. Whilst our purpose is not specifically to raise funds but to enrich village life, this will assist us in a number of ways, not least by reducing our exposure to paying tax on any profit that we do make. In addition to this we are revising our banking arrangements to a service that is far more appropriate for a Not-for-Profit organisation such as MVP.

Our back-room work doesn't end there. Over the coming months you will see a new website being launched, which will be more user friendly both to visit and to maintain, whilst keeping the village feel. We are sure this will become even more of an important go-to place for information once the improvements are complete.

If this wasn't enough, in conjunction with the Parish Council we will launch an online survey to see if everyone knows about all the activities that happen in Mortimer and to enable us all to have a say about other things that we might like to happen. For more details, please see the article inside and contribute your thoughts and ideas.

...and that just leaves me to mention the legendary SCARECROW TRAIL, which tells us all that we are now in the grips of autumn and winter is coming. Wrap up warm and enjoy the walk around the village to see this year's spectacular creations.

**Doug Overett**  
MVP Chairman

## **MVP Affiliate News**

### **Friday Afternoon Club**

PROJECT LINUS UK

Project Linus UK is a volunteer organization supported by Mortimer's Friday Afternoon Club. We aim to provide a sense of security and comfort to sick and traumatised babies, children and teenagers through the provision of new, home-made patchwork quilts and knitted/crocheted blankets. We give volunteers across the UK the opportunity to contribute to their local community.

If you know a child or teenager who is terminally ill, in a hospice or hospital, distressed, disabled or Autistic, who would enjoy a quilt from Project Linus please contact Lillian King, our local project coordinator on [lillianking@gmail.com](mailto:lillianking@gmail.com) or 0118 987 1400.

### **Burghfield & Mortimer Handybus**

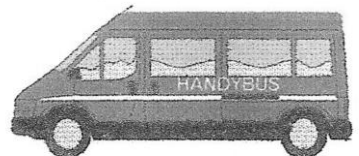
The Burghfield and Mortimer Handybus provides a community minibus service that also covers Sulhamstead and Ufton Nervet. The service is provided by a 10/12-seater minibus which has been modified to provide easy access, including a passenger lift for wheelchair users. The service operates to help those with limited mobility or people who are unable to use, or don't have access to public transport.

We currently run regular shopping trips to Sainsbury's in Calcot and Tadley, as well as to Reading and Newbury. In addition, we make regular trips to local social club meetings, West Berkshire Therapy Centre, garden centres and cinemas, and frequent social outings to other local places of interest. Pick up and drop off is from passengers' home addresses. The service is operated on a voluntary, non-profit making basis, but a passenger donation is usually made to cover the supply and operation of our minibus. Donations are typically £3.00 return for a Sainsbury's shopping trip, £4.00 return for a Reading trip and £5.00 return for a Newbury trip. We currently make over 3,000 passenger trips per year but often have empty seats available, so if you would like to take advantage of our service please talk to one of our co-ordinators (details below).

#### **Wanted – Volunteer Drivers and Escorts**

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

For more information about volunteering or use of the Handybus, please contact Don Harwood (0118 983 6611) or Phil Church (0118 983 3694).



## Burghfield Camera Club

Burghfield Camera Club has started its new season and welcomes everyone interested in photography, whatever their level.



Our meetings for October include:

12<sup>th</sup> October – a talk by Gordon Joslin, “The Visual Psychology of Photography”

19<sup>th</sup> October – the 1<sup>st</sup> competition of the season.

## Mortimer Toddler (and Baby) Group – Relaunch

You know toddlers are always on the move? Well now Mortimer Toddler Group has itself moved!

We now meet in the Methodist Hall from 10:00 to 11:30 on Tuesday mornings in term time. Everyone (mum, dad, granny, grandad, carer) with a baby or child under school age is very welcome. You do not need to wait for a new term – just come. You will get a friendly welcome, a cup of tea or coffee and a chance to meet some other parents, guardians & carers. There is an amazing range of toys for your little one to play with in a safe environment and lots of room to move about. We plan to have some kind of craft or messy activity out most weeks, the bouncy castle occasionally and singing together every week.



Do give us your ideas of what you would like to see happening at Toddlers. If you want to get in touch before you come we have a Facebook page (search for Mortimer Toddlers) and an email address: [mortimertoddlers.berks@gmail.com](mailto:mortimertoddlers.berks@gmail.com).

An added attraction of the new setup is that Burghfield Toy Library has moved to the same venue at the same time, so we are running together. If you don't know about this, it is the most wonderful collection of toys that you can borrow to take home for a very small charge. It is looked after by some lovely volunteers who were working out of the Children's Centre in Burghfield that has closed, so we are very happy to welcome them to Mortimer. It also has its own Facebook page where you can see the toys available.

## Hurst Singers

Hurst Singers have a charity concert at Beech Hill Village Hall on Saturday October 14<sup>th</sup> starting at 19:30 in support of the charity 'Our Harry's Smile.' All profits to the charity.



# Mortimer Dramatic Society



## Keeping Down With The Joneses: a comedy by John Chapman & Jeremy Lloyd

This laugh-a-minute comedy is the perfect thing to cheer up a cold October night, so record Strictly or Britain's Got Talent and come and enjoy live theatre right here in Mortimer.

It's 1985 and the Cold War is raging on. As Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher are fighting the Evil Empire in Eastern Europe, the Russians are in Afghanistan and cruise missiles are at Greenham Common. Geoffrey Jones, MP and sometime architect, is convinced that the Russians are about to launch a nuclear strike against England. He builds a bomb shelter equipped with everything he, his wife, and his wife's old mother will need to last out such a strike. They plan to try the thing out for a three-week experiment when, inadvertently, they are trapped inside with the mother, the telephone-installer and the milkman. They try to make the best of the situation, when who should enter through a side hatch, but their next-door neighbours who, ever striving to keep up with the Joneses, have now kept down with them by building their own abutting shelter. By a strange set of circumstances, the neighbours are also trapped and neither neighbour wants to admit this to the other.

Performances are at St John's Hall, West End Road on Fridays & Saturdays, 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> October. Tickets £10. Book online at [www.mortimer-dramatic.org](http://www.mortimer-dramatic.org) or call 0778 533 3321.

## Mortimer FC

Mortimer FC's First and Reserves teams have had a busy season so far. If you wish to spectate at any remaining fixtures, home games are played on Alfred Palmer Memorial Field. Results at time of going to press are:



First team:

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Opponents:</b>	<b>Result:</b>
Sat 19/8	Highmoor Ibis United	(h) L1-4
Wed 23/8	Westwood United	(h) D2-2
Sat 26/8	Reading YMCA	(h) L1-7
Wed 30/8	Wokingham & Emmbrook Res	(h) W2-1
Sat 2/9	Taplow United	(a) W3-1
Sat 9/9	Wright & Unity Sports	(a) L0-1
Sat 16/9	Letcombe (B&B Senior Trophy)	(h) R1 L1-2
Sat 23/9	Wraysbury	(a) D1-1
<b>Still to play:</b>		
Sat 30/9	Woodley United Royals (BTC Senior Cup)	(h) [2.00pm ko]
Sat 21/10	Wokingham & Emmbrook (Maidenhead & Norfolkian Cup R1)	(h) [2.00pm ko]

Reserves:

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Opponents:</b>	<b>Result:</b>
Sat 2/9	Marlow United Res	(h) W5-2
Sat 9/9	Uffington United (B&B Intermediate Cup R1)	(h) W8-0
Sat 16/9	Brimpton Athletic	(a) D2-2
Sat 23/9	Harchester Hawks	(a) W3-1
<b>Still to play:</b>		
Sat 30/9	South Reading	(a) [2.00pm ko]
Sat 7/10	Burghfield (B&B Intermediate Cup R2)	(a) [TBA]

## Mortimer St. John's Infant School Parents and Friends Association



This year our bonfire night and fireworks display will take place on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November on the field behind the school and the Horse and Groom. Always a wonderful family event, this year we will have live entertainment, a licensed bar, a new and exciting range of food and drink options and children's novelties in addition to our bonfire and fireworks extravaganza. Gates will open at 16:30, with tickets on sale from Budgens, Dads shop, McColl's, The Baobab, Weller's and Nisa in Burghfield from Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October. Kindly sponsored by Parkers, Spratley's, Budgens, Englefield Estates, Live FX and Elizabeth Kempson Hairdressing, ticket prices have been held at last year's prices - Adults £4/Children £3 in advance or Adults £5/Children £4 on the gate.

Watch out on social media and noticeboards for more details.  
[www.facebook.com/mortimerbonfire](http://www.facebook.com/mortimerbonfire)

\*\*\*Calling all local entrepreneurs\*\*\*

Mortimer St John's will be holding its Christmas Fair on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. It's a great opportunity for local business or those with a growing hobby to show everyone their products and talents. It's a busy fair that is well supported by parents and the village as a whole. A table is just £12 and that fee goes straight to the school.

There will be a wide variety of stalls as well as activities for children and a selection of refreshments will be available in our 'café' – including mulled wine to get you in the Christmas spirit! Come and join us for the afternoon and find some stocking-fillers and presents for family and friends.

If you would like more information about having a table at the fair please contact Jo on [mortimerstjohnsxmasfair@gmail.com](mailto:mortimerstjohnsxmasfair@gmail.com).

# Mortimer & Burghfield Community First Responders



It has been a busy summer and for a time we did not have Mortimer-based Responders due to illness and injury – so we resourced the area from Burghfield and continued to give 999 cover. We are pleased to tell you that we now have Thomas Maynard and Max Fullerton on standby in Mortimer.



**Thomas Maynard**

One of the Mortimer public access defibrillators was recently deployed. It was good to see that the education message led people to think about and to access the defibrillators, which are located at:

- Sansome & George, West End Road
- Horse & Groom, The Street
- Mortimer Surgery, Victoria Road

Go to our South Central Ambulance Service “Save a Life” page where you can download a map for your phone and learn how to use one of these lifesaving public devices.

[www.scas.nhs.uk/news/campaigns/savealife/](http://www.scas.nhs.uk/news/campaigns/savealife/)

We were once again displaying at the Mortimer Fun Day and luckily on hand when a member of the public collapsed due to the heat. We hadn't meant for quite such a public demonstration of our service but we were glad to be able to assist at their moment of need.

We are very pleased to have been chosen as De Vere Wokefield Estate's “Charity of the Year”. We respond to all parts of the estate whenever there is a medical emergency and we are pleased to continue this charitable relationship with them.

If you would like to know more about becoming an NHS Ambulance CFR then please contact David Gregory on 07595 959 479, email him at [davidgregory2000@gmail.com](mailto:davidgregory2000@gmail.com) or read more about us here: <http://sca-charity.org.uk/burghfield-cfr/>.

## 1<sup>st</sup> Burghfield & Sulhamstead Scouts



Dozens of Beavers and Scouts are learning about the woodland management cycle as part of a creative initiative taking place on the Englefield Estate as a collaborative project between the Beaver and Cub Scouts, the Estate and chainsaw carver and carpenter Nick Speakman.

Around eighty Beavers, Cubs and their families, including Burghfield's Voyager Beavers working towards their Community Impact badges, visited the woodland to learn from Forestry Manager Richard Edwards and experience a timber harvester in action.

Later in the summer, Nick Speakman of 3DWood sculpted a wooden bench with a scouting theme from a tree growing in the Benyon's Inclosure woodland. This has been installed near to where the Scouts saw the trees being felled, and was recently visited by a group of seventy-five Beavers and Cubs during the Big Beaver Hike last month. A group will return to the woodland in the autumn to plant saplings, replacing those felled and continuing the woodland management cycle.

Richard Edwards explained: "The first stage of the project involved Nick talking to the group about product design and the variety of approaches that can be taken when making a wooden bench. They then went away and created a number of different designs using modelling clay, which gave Nick inspiration for the final sculpture. The second session involved the group visiting the forest and learning about woodland management including why we cut down trees, what we can make out of timber and how wood is a sustainable resource. They also got to see a timber harvester working and had the chance to sit in the cab, which they very much enjoyed! They were asking lots of questions and showing a real interest in what we do here."

So impressed were the Berkshire Scouts with the initiative, that they pledged a grant of £200 for the project. Beaver Scout leader Helen Townsend said: "The Beavers, Cubs and their families were blown away with the harvester. We are very grateful to have had the chance to see such a machine in action. The children were fascinated and, even on an extremely hot evening, Rich was great at holding their attention and making the forestry cycle interesting for them. His jokes went down well too!"

## Made In Mortimer



Calling all artists, crafters and general "makers"! Made in Mortimer is a brand new group for all artists and crafters local to Mortimer who create their own handmade goods. We are a friendly and supportive group meeting regularly to share ideas, gain inspiration, ask advice from our fellow crafters and generally share our passion for making things.

We also aim to collectively raise the profile of the crafters in the village and encourage a more 'buy local' ethos. Look out for more details of our first event; we will be holding a "Made in Mortimer" Craft Fair from 10:00 to 16:00 on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> October at Mortimer Methodist Church. Entry is free and, in addition to lots of lovely stalls with locally produced crafts and goods, we will also have tea, coffee and cake for anyone in need of refreshment whilst walking the Scarecrow trail.

New members are very welcome - please contact Emma Vidal on 0118 933 1623 if you would like to join or have any queries.

## Together In Mission



**Open Mondays 09:00 - 14:00, Wednesdays 09:00 - 12:00.**

Our popular café at Burghfield Methodist Church Hall offers a free IT Drop-In Clinic every Monday between 10:00 and 12:00, as well as personal prayer in the church on the 1<sup>st</sup>

Monday of the month. Otherwise just drop in and enjoy Kingdom coffees, freshly made lunches and cakes at reasonable prices. There is disabled access, a safe play area for toddlers and free wifi. Café B is professionally managed and staffed by volunteers. Join us for Christmas carols on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December.

If you would like to join our team or get involved in any aspect of Café B then please contact the Manager, Deborah Griffiths ([deborah@togetherinmission.org.uk](mailto:deborah@togetherinmission.org.uk)) or on 0785 725 2187.

### Linking Lives UK features TiM Friends

This national befriending charity is concerned with the issue of loneliness amongst people of all ages and backgrounds. It had this to say about TiM Friends in its summer newsletter:

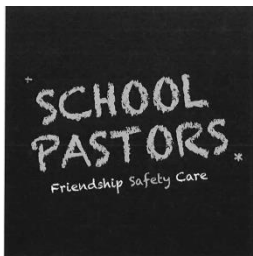
“It has been exciting to see the project grow and develop, to the point where they now visit over 40 older people and run a variety of social events and activities. They recently heard of a 13 year-old girl who is bed-ridden and were able to arrange for a 15 year old girl (with supervision) to make regular home visits and this has made a huge impact on both of their lives.”

Do you know someone who would appreciate a visit or an outing? Our volunteers are trained and DBS cleared before they are carefully matched with a suitable person.



### Christmas Carols with TiM Friends.

Saturday 16 December at 14:00. Contact Bev French ([bev@togetherinmission.org.uk](mailto:bev@togetherinmission.org.uk)) or on 07748 686 615.



**School Pastors** are grateful for the support of Marina Swainston-Harrison who, together with husband Grant, hosts the Parents' Prayer Group at The Willink School. Marina also organises the popular 'Coffee and Cake' event each term for staff at the school. We are grateful not only to have her prayer support but also her insight and feedback about School Pastors from a parent's perspective. We welcome ideas and suggestions of how we might better support the students and staff at The Willink, so if you are a teacher, staff member,

volunteer, parent or student at the school, please get in touch with our Coordinator Libby ([libby@togetherinmission.org.uk](mailto:libby@togetherinmission.org.uk)), or 0777 891 1182. The Parents' Prayer Group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday after each half-term. The next meeting is on 8<sup>th</sup> November. Contact Marina ([gmglobal@yahoo.com](mailto:gmglobal@yahoo.com)) for more details.

TiM is grateful to the generous funding from Stratfield Mortimer Relief in Need and for their continued support in the Mortimer and Mortimer West End areas.



## Mortimer Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG)

All NHS organisations, which include GP surgeries, have a duty to set up PPGs to enable patient representatives to be involved, where appropriate, with the practice.

The Mortimer PPG is a group of around 12 patient representatives who, together with the Practice Manager and a GP, meet every 6 weeks in the surgery. The group does not handle or receive complaints but welcomes comments and suggestions to help improve the patient experience in the surgery, which can then be added to the agenda, for discussion at our meetings with the practice representatives. The GP and Practice Manager also present information about the practice to the meeting.

The PPG conducts patient surveys and arranges public meetings on behalf of the practice, such as a Diabetes Information evening, to which patients and the wider public are invited. On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October, 10:30-13:00 at the Burghfield Community Sports Association on James Lane, Burghfield, a range of speakers will give advice on "Life and Death Matters", covering all aspects of end-of-life planning, including medical care, legal & financial matters, funeral arrangements and community resources. Entry is free, but please register your interest with The Mortimer Surgery on 0118 933 2436 or [ppgmortimersurgery@gmail.com](mailto:ppgmortimersurgery@gmail.com).

Every month all the local PPG representatives meet to share ideas and best practice together with staff from the North and West Reading Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to enable feedback from the surgeries to be communicated to the CCG management team for consideration and action.

If you have any comments or observations you would like raised at our meetings, or if you are interested in joining us, please email [ppgmortimersurgery@gmail.com](mailto:ppgmortimersurgery@gmail.com).

## Mortimer 2012 W.I.



Mortimer 2012 WI meets on the first Wednesday of the month in the Community Centre, is five years old this October and the membership still continues to grow. This year we have had interesting talks from speakers as diverse as Tilehurst Butchers, AWE and Dr Barbara Hateley who told us about the history of nursery rhymes. We had our usual stall at the Fun Day selling homemade cakes and biscuits, and an extremely interesting private visit to Stratfield Saye House.

Future meetings include:

1<sup>st</sup> November  
6<sup>th</sup> December  
10<sup>th</sup> January  
7<sup>th</sup> February  
7<sup>th</sup> March  
4<sup>th</sup> April

An in-house Christmas Craft Workshop  
Christmas Party  
Threads of Japan  
Flying Pigs Project in Moldova  
Annual Meeting  
Samba Drumming

## South Berks Concert Band

To those of you who joined us for our “Heroes & Villains” concert, we hope you had an enjoyable afternoon. We certainly enjoyed entertaining such an appreciative audience, so thank you. We were pleased to be working with Save the Children on the day, where they offered refreshments, face painting, arranged the raffle and worked hard in supporting us with Front of House duties. It was also great to have so many visitors, especially children come along to our stand at the Fun Day, and from the many comments we had, it seems everyone who visited us enjoyed the experience of trying out lots of different instruments.

We are now busy rehearsing for two important events; first the National Concert Band Festival (NCBF) at the Cardinal Vaughan Memorial School, Kensington on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December where we will be playing along with other bands and aiming to achieve at least Gold Award, which is the level we attained last time we entered some 5 years ago.

Our second important event is our winter concert being held in St John’s Church, Mortimer at 18:00 on 9<sup>th</sup> December. We will again be playing a varied programme of music along with a number of festive pieces and carols for you to sing along to. Once again Save the Children will be working with us offering refreshments and selling Christmas cards, paper etc. Do watch out for more information on our website, Facebook page and posters. Please put the date in your diary, tell friends, family and work colleagues and we look forward to seeing you all on the 9<sup>th</sup> December. Tickets for this concert will be available locally from Dads Shop in Mortimer and you can also book by email: [SBCB\\_Music@yahoo.com](mailto:SBCB_Music@yahoo.com)

LIVE MUSIC – NOTHING BETTER



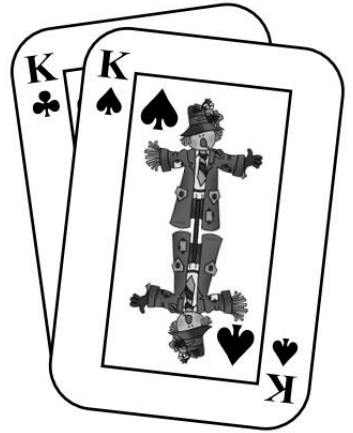
## MVP Affiliate Groups Contact List

1st Burghfield & Sulhamstead Scouts	burghfieldgsl@outlook.com	07867 800335
1st Mortimer Baden Powell Scout Group	neiljohnson@btinternet.com	933 2147
1st Mortimer Brownies	firstmortimerbrownies@hotmail.co.uk	933 3153
1st Ufton Nerve Scout Group	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 Community First Responders	davidgregory2000@gmail.com	07595 959479
Burghfield & Mortimer Handybus	pichurch@btinternet.com	983 3694
Burghfield & Mortimer Volunteer Drivers	derekbhhh3@gmail.com	983 3341
Burghfield Camera Club	burghfieldccsec@gmail.com	
Churches Together in Burghfield, Sulhamstead, Mortimer	deaconjohn@spring-lane.co.uk	327 4120
Friday Afternoon club	d.stroud2010@btinternet.com	
Hurst Singers	mariatseasons@aol.com	933 2805
Made In Mortimer	wellandemma@hotmail.com	933 1623
Mortimer & District Branch of the RNLI	j.r.bull@btinternet.com	933 3741
Mortimer 2012 WI	Malelkin@aol.com	933 1331
Mortimer Bell Ringers	petermacnaughtan@hotmail.com	933 2200
Mortimer Cricket Club	adrsmith@gmail.com	
Mortimer Dramatic Society	tshorrock@mrmrmerlin.com	07785 333321
Mortimer FC	mortimerfootballclub@gmail.com	07786 631027
Mortimer Film Club	pete.blagden@btinternet.com	933 2546
Mortimer Garden Club	angiephilips@btinternet.com	
Mortimer Local History Club	munsonsinmortimer@yahoo.co.uk	933 1310
Mortimer Methodist Church	amfoymusic@gmail.com	933 3689
Mortimer Music Live	jacqui.grant@mortimermusiclive.co.uk	933 3408
Mortimer Netball Club	sjkape@hotmail.co.uk	
Mortimer St Mary's PTA	mortstmarys@gmail.com	07827 719030
Mortimer Surgery Patient Participation Group	Shirley.cullup@btinternet.com	983 2377
Mortimer Tennis Club	jean.l.thomas@btinternet.com	
Mortimer West End Produce Show	melonybennet93@gmail.com	933 1792
Mortimer West End Village Hall	mwevh@outlook.com.	933 2417
Music for Mortimer	nickcarter1@gmail.com	07446 239239
Santas of Burghfield	glyn.townsend@hpe.com	07824 623583
Save the Children - Kennet Branch	jclaredowney@gmail.com	07971 241222
South Berks Concert Band	southberksconcertband@yahoo.com	07785 311856
St John's PFA	katrinathomas@hotmail.co.uk	07788 281535
St Mary's Sulhamstead Abbots	pisumcorporum@btinternet.com	983 2491
Together in Mission	info@togetherinmission.org.uk	933 2569
West Berkshire Walking for Health	gb@atpps.com	933 1707
Willink PTA	pta@willink.w-berks.sch.uk	

## Upcoming MVP Events

### **Mortimer Scarecrow Trail**

Put on your walking shoes, jump on your bikes and hop on your skateboards as the Scarecrow Trail returns for this year's autumn half term holiday. Running from Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> to Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October inclusive, the scarecrows will be on show from 09:00 to dusk each day. The trail finishes at 16:00 on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup>.



This year's theme, One of a Pair, is based around famous and infamous pairs (e.g. Beauty and the Beast, Bonnie and Clyde, Posh and Becks). As in previous years, it will be an excellent way of keeping the kids – both small and not so small alike – entertained during the half term week. Trail followers will be able to vote for their choice of scarecrow in each of three categories and have the chance to win £50 in the trail competition. The “Just For Fun” quiz will be about the pairs themselves, so make sure you are armed with paper and pen!

Costing just £1, trail maps will be available from Budgens and Dads Shop from Thursday October 19<sup>th</sup>. Budgens is once again kindly providing a voucher with each trail map purchased that can be exchanged for selected products in the shop (terms and conditions apply).

#### **Polite request:**

**Please do not leave your car in Budgens' car park whilst you complete the trail as this prevents regular customers from being able to park.**

**Thank you.**

If you wish to be amongst the first to know the winners of this year's trail then come along to the Community Centre from 18:00 to 18:30 on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October.

As in previous years, our thanks to the scarecrow makers and supporters, Blue Array Ltd, Budgens, Dads Shop, Mortimer Library, Parkers, pictureseverywhere.com and Spratley's, all of whom help to make the Scarecrow Trail an enjoyable, viable and affordable community event.

For further information email [scarecrow@mortimervillage.org.uk](mailto:scarecrow@mortimervillage.org.uk), visit [www.mortimervillage.org.uk](http://www.mortimervillage.org.uk) or find us on Facebook.

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

## Lunch Club

After seven years of the lovely Helen Baines making soup for Lunch Club, sadly we had to say goodbye to her as she moves to pastures new. Everyone at Lunch Club would like to say a HUGE thank you to her for all of her time and support over the years. We are delighted to announce that Craig Lawson, Landlord of the Horse and Groom, has very kindly stepped into the breach and from October his chef will be making soup for the 30+ ladies and gents that attend the MVP Lunch Club. Thank-you Craig, your support is very much appreciated.

Lunch Club has also received a grant to further support the elderly people of this community via one of our volunteers who works for BT. BT has been providing year-round support for our lunch club by allowing one of its employees, Tonia Hopkins, to work as a volunteer twice a month. In addition, Tonia was able to source BT grant money which will allow us to provide both a Christmas party and a summer outing for our lunch guests in the coming year. Thank you to Tonia, and indeed all the volunteers who give their time to support Lunch Club. We are always looking out for more people to join the team of helpers, so if you are interested in learning more please email Rebecca on [bbarkerdg11@gmail.com](mailto:bbarkerdg11@gmail.com).

## Silver Sunday

This year's Silver Sunday event is to be held as the newsletter goes to press on 1<sup>st</sup> October in a new location at the Community Centre. De Vere has kindly offered to provide a hot lunch for 50 elderly people from our community. With musical entertainment, raffles, quizzes and lots of laughter we will be once again acknowledging the contribution that the more senior members of our community bring to village life.

DE VERE  
WOKZFIELD ESTATE

**Budgens** The organisers would also like to take this opportunity to give a big THANK YOU to Budgens for their ongoing support both for this event and the MVP Lunch Club throughout the year. We could not do it without you.

## Christmas Pantomime

Have you heard? The greatest love story EVER is coming to Mortimer this Christmas! After wowing the audience with their performances of Dick Whittington last December, MVP is delighted to announce Gary Starr Touring Pantomimes is returning to St John's Hall, Mortimer on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December with their version of Beauty & the Beast, and there will be meet and greet photo opportunities with the cast at the end of each performance.



This year there will be just two 90-minute shows, starting at 14:00 and at 17:00. Tickets will be available through <https://mvp2017panto.eventbrite.com> or by calling the MVP Box Office on 07968 018162 from 10:00 on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October. Bag your tickets before midnight on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October to enjoy up to 21% off children's ticket prices. Under 17 years pay just £7.50 and adults pay £10 each. After that date prices will rise to £9.50 Child / £12 Adult.

## **Mortimer Community Survey**

Mortimer is a busy village with lots going on, but do you know about all the things you could be involved in? Are there activities or groups you could help with but don't know who to contact? Have you got ideas for new events or clubs that you would like to see happening here? And what could MVP be doing better?

MVP has created an online survey to collect all this information and more. The results will help MVP and other groups in the village, including the Parish Council, think about how to improve our wonderful village.

Anyone living in Mortimer and old enough to read the questions is welcome to take part; we hope everyone in your household will have a go. To complete the online survey, go to [https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MVP\\_Community\\_Survey](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MVP_Community_Survey) or you can find the link on the MVP Facebook page and website to save typing it in.

Paper copies are available in Baobab and the Library, which you can return completed to the same places.

If you complete the survey (on-line or paper) and include your contact details it will be put into a draw for the chance to win one of three prizes of £50 each. If you also complete the quiz correctly at the end of the survey you will be entered into a draw for a prize of £100. The closing date for all surveys is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017.

Once the survey has closed we will publish the correct answers for the quiz and the names of the winners of both draws on the MVP website, MVP Facebook page and in the next MVP newsletter. The prizes are being provided by MVP.



## **Recent MVP Events**

### **Mortimer Village Fun Day**

This year's Fun Day had everyone talking about our star attraction, Galloping Acrobatics, who put on a fantastic display combining skilful equestrianism, acrobatics and showmanship to keep everyone's eyes glued to the main arena. The new addition of Miller's Ark mobile farm was also a big hit with children and adults alike; you just had to love the miniature donkeys and the goats were so sweet. With great performances in the arena from our local stars Shane & Alex, as well as the range of outstanding music and dance, there was something for everyone.



Many organisations use the event to raise both funds for themselves and their profiles, so it was nice to hear from them, and from the traders too, that many consider the Mortimer Fun Day as one of their favourite events on the calendar.

As always, the bar, the refreshment tent and our catering partners were kept very busy all day making sure that everyone was fed and watered, and the MVP organising team and volunteers again made the day look effortless.

On behalf of everyone who had a great Fun Day, a big THANK YOU to all the volunteers, sponsors, traders, scout groups, arena acts and everyone who helped make it happen.

Since this was Doug Overett's 4<sup>th</sup> year as Project Manager he shall now be taking a back seat, which means that we need a replacement and more volunteers to help arrange Mortimer Fun Day 2018. Please do look out for requests over the coming months on our website and Facebook page, and please do get involved.

## **Other Local News**

### **Mortimer Art Show**



This year will herald the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Mortimer Art Show, which will be held in St John's Hall on 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> November. Come along to see our local artists' works and maybe buy an original or two.

## **MVP Contact Details**

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Doug Overett</b>	<a href="mailto:doug.overett@gmail.com">doug.overett@gmail.com</a>	933 3285
<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 19:30 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 of this newsletter which is delivered free of charge to 2000 households.

