

# Mortimer Village Partnership

## Newsletter

February 2019

*All this and more available on  
our website*

[www.mortimervillage.org.uk](http://www.mortimervillage.org.uk)



Mortimer Village Partnership  
Enriching Village Life



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

## Welcome to Mortimer!

You might think that's a strange thing to say, with most of our readers being long-term Mortimerians. With the new building plans underway, however, and already new houses being moved in to, we can look forward to welcoming new people to our village, as we did when the Berries was developed a good few years ago.

Of course, we've heard about people not liking change, but it does mean new customers for our local shops and businesses, children for our fantastic schools....and.... of course, I had to say it... new volunteers to help and participate in all the amazing things that happen in Mortimer.

At our Affiliates event last autumn, someone suggested the MVP put together a "Welcome Pack" for people who are considering moving to the village and indeed those who have just picked up their new house keys. We could tell them about all of the clubs and organisations, the history of the village, local events... about our great football and cricket teams, the list was endless.

What started off as a good idea, suddenly started to look like a lot of printing! And then of course we realised, we already have this in place in the MVP website [www.mortimervillage.org.uk](http://www.mortimervillage.org.uk) which has details of not only MVP things, but *everything Mortimer*.

So, in collaboration with the local estate agents we have produced a simple, one page flyer pointing our new neighbours to the MVP website, Facebook Page and Twitter as well as other important sources of local information and we look forward to them making the most of living in Mortimer, participating as widely as possible and becoming our new friends.

**Doug Overett**  
MVP Chairman

## More from MVP

### MVP Village Theatre - Title & Deed - Friday 1st March

After a wonderful performance back in December, we are delighted to welcome Farnham Maltings back to St Johns Hall Mortimer on March 1st at 8:00pm with their latest production.

Written by the celebrated American playwright, Will Eno, *Title & Deed* is a haunting, funny, quietly-moving examination of what it is to search for *home*, that singular place in the world where we can feel complete. A slightly foreign man gathers us together to sort through his surprising experience of that search and shares his story, comparing the odd traditions in his country of birth with the realities of life here. This promises to be another beautiful and poetic evening of story-telling from the team that brought you *Brilliance* and *The Iranian Feast*.



Farnham Maltings is a touring company that performs plays specially written for small intimate performances in village halls. If you've seen them before, you will already be a fan, if not, then come and see what it's all about.

All tickets £15 available from [www.mortimervillage.org.uk](http://www.mortimervillage.org.uk), follow the link to book. Doors will open at 7:15pm with a pre-performance bar.

### Mortimer Spring Clean – Saturday 23rd March 1 – 3:30pm

To help maintain the quality of our village, MVP is again organising the annual Litter Pick which has been a popular family event. We all live in hope that one day our streets and footpaths will be litter-free, but until then we need as many community-spirited volunteers as we can find. As previously, we will start and finish in the garden of the Horse & Groom from 1 – 3:30 pm: high-visibility jackets, gloves, sacks and litter-pickers will be provided when you sign in. There will be a prize for the most unusual item found although please bear in mind that this is a family event. So please put this date in your diary and come and enjoy this popular social event.

We are hoping to cover an even wider area than last year and for some people to undertake the cleaning of village signs (but not actual road traffic signs which are the responsibility of West Berkshire Council).



If there is a particular part of the village you would prefer to focus your efforts on please let us know in advance and we will do our best to reserve this for you and your family! Also if there are any other aspects that you would like to draw to our attention we would be pleased to hear from you – use the Contact us on the MVP website.

## Happy Birthday MVP - Public Meeting - 23rd March 4:30pm

As Mortimer Village Partnership (MVP) looks to its 10th anniversary, an open public meeting will be held at the Community Centre to share a piece of Birthday Cake and discuss ideas for the next 10 years.

Initially set up to involve people and groups in the life of the village, to improve communications, to connect people together and facilitate activities and events in order to enhance the lives of the local community ...

it's worth challenging - Is this still the purpose? Are those aims being achieved? What else could we or should we be focussing on?

Everyone is welcome, all local residents who live Mortimer, local interested businesses, Affiliated Groups (and those not yet affiliated!) and MVP Members past and present.

We look forward to seeing you there.

(We will use the occasion for the necessary tasks of our AGM, which will only take 10 minutes!)



## MVP Lunch Club

MVP has been running a lunch club for the elderly for about ten years now. We have on average 35/40 guests who are served soup by a willing band of volunteers. It's a great opportunity to catch up with old friends or make new ones both for the volunteers and the guests.

We are currently looking for a number of volunteers who would be willing to assist



Rebecca and Cindy in the administration involved in running the lunch club. This would involve contacting and arranging transport for our less-mobile lunch guests, drawing up rotas for volunteering, organising and purchasing supplies, organising Christmas and Silver Sunday events, organising a summer outing, organising and running raffles.

If this is something that you can help us with please contact Rebecca on [bbarkerdg11@gmail.com](mailto:bbarkerdg11@gmail.com)

## MVP Theatre Trips

MVP organises trips by coach up to London Theatreland and provincial theatres to take advantage of the significant group discounts that are available. The coach trips usually leave Mortimer at 4pm and you are mostly dropped off and picked up again right outside the theatre. Take a look on the MVP website for details of the kinds of trips that we are currently running or alternatively join the mailing list and get advance notice of future trips – [mvtheatretrips@gmail.com](mailto:mvtheatretrips@gmail.com)



## Mortimer Summer Event

As we already shared in the last issue, after 10 years the fantastic Mortimer Fun Day is being rested for 2019, as are our aching bones and muscles. We hope that once rested, we can look to a new, fresh event in 2020 to start the next decade.

Since there was considerable interest in having some opportunity for the village to enjoy a bit of a get-together on the Fairground this summer, we suggested local individuals or groups might have an idea for a more low-key event supported by the MVP. We regret that at this time there are no firm plans or proposals... but the door is always open. Maybe a Community Family Picnic? Beer & BBQ?



If you have any suggestions and wish to help, please email us via the Contact us link on the MVP Website.

## MVP Affiliate News

### Mortimer Pre-School

A is for Amazing, B is for Busy and C is for Chocolate!

Mortimer Pre-School have had an exceptionally fun and busy few months. We've welcomed twenty new children from our village to our setting and have been enjoying ourselves dancing, baking and making as well as learning sign language and yoga in between our autumn topics and our usual fun activities.



December saw us supporting the Loddon Valley Lions on their Christmas float to raise money for the Pre-School and other local charities, we've all sported our Christmas jumpers to support the Save the Children charity and put on a great Christmas show for families and friends in the village.

We're already looking forward to Easter, when we host the village Easter Egg Hunt (put it in your diary for **Saturday 20th April!**) and follow us on Facebook at **Mortimer Easter Egg Hunt**.

If you have a Pre-Schooler, and want to join us then please e-mail [admissions@mortimerpreschool.org.uk](mailto:admissions@mortimerpreschool.org.uk) or just pop by and have a chat. [www.mortimerpreschool.org.uk](http://www.mortimerpreschool.org.uk)

### Mortimer Bellringers



As you walk through the village, and hear the bells, have you ever wondered who rings them and how they do it? The Mortimer Bellringers, is a group of a dozen ringers from Mortimer, Burghfield and surrounds. We have been very busy this autumn with ringing for Armistice day at all the three towers for which we are responsible and of course Sundays and Christmas. We ring and look after not only Mortimer St John's but also St Mary's and Padworth.

The tradition of bell ringing goes back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century and it is carried out in the same way now as it was then. It is a fascinating, sociable, activity, a skill that requires neither physical strength nor musical ability, but a sense of rhythm helps!

Some of our members attend the church, some do not. We practice in Mortimer almost every Monday evening (8-9). If you would like to visit to see what we do, please drop me an email. [petermacnaughtan@hotmail.com](mailto:petermacnaughtan@hotmail.com)

## Mortimer 2012 WI

Mortimer 2012 W.I. enter 2019 with our highest ever membership and our affiliate groups, including 'Ladies that Lunch', Book and Walking groups, going from strength to strength. We welcome all ladies in Mortimer to come along and give us a try. We meet at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of the month at the Mortimer Community Centre. In March 2019 we'll be having a dedicated craft day for members to learn new skills.



This year we have three 'open meetings' where non-members of both sexes are welcome along to hear our speakers. The dates and topics for these meetings are below;

09/01/2019 - Graham Horn will present The History of the Kennet and Avon Canal

03/04/2019 - Corry Starling will present the History of Mapledurham Mill

04/09/2019 - Margaret Finch will present Autumn Plants

Mortimer 2012 W.I. would like to thank everyone who came along to our 'refreshment stop' on the Scarecrow Trail, we'll be back this year.

## South Berks Concert Band



We are pleased to announce our first concert of 2019, "Music for a Spring Evening", will be on **23<sup>rd</sup> March at St John's Church**, Mortimer - put the date in your diaries and look out for more information on the band website or posters around the village nearer the time.

Dates for future concerts around the community are still to be confirmed, but we hope to be able to put on a Summer concert in the area.

The band is looking forward to a 5-day 3-Countries tour in May covering Germany, The Netherlands and Belgium, where they will be playing concerts in Aachen, Maastricht and Spa.

If anyone organising local events wants musical entertainment, then our 2 smaller groups of Sf Sax and No Strings Attached are able to use smaller venues.

Tickets for our March concert will be available locally from several outlets very soon and you can also book by email: [SBCB\\_Music@yahoo.com](mailto:SBCB_Music@yahoo.com). For more information check out

Our website [www.southberksmusic.org.uk](http://www.southberksmusic.org.uk)

Or follow us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/southberksconcertband](http://www.facebook.com/southberksconcertband)

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

## Crafters Club

Our local Crafters Club meet on the **1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays** of the month at the Methodist Hall, West End Road from 1.30 - 3.30pm.

We are always appreciative of donations of wool or fabric/material which enables us to make quilts for Project Linus ([www.projectlinus.org.uk](http://www.projectlinus.org.uk)) providing quilts for children in hospices, hospitals or in distress.

Some of our members also make blankets, baby 'cardies', hats and lots & lots of bed socks for The Duchess of Kent Hospice in Reading. Please bring your donations to the hall and join us for a cuppa.

ALL Welcome!

## Save the Children – Kennet Branch

Save the Children – Kennet Branch thanks everyone for their support in 2018.

2019 is Save the Children's centenary and to commemorate we're welcoming the Arborfield Military Wives Choir to St. Mary's Church Burghfield (more details will be available on the MVP website news and Facebook page nearer the time).

Save the date, **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> of June**, for our Music Evening in the beautiful garden setting of Little Manor, Burghfield Village. Live music, including jazz standards, big band classics and contemporary arrangements for big band will be supplied by the Clive Fortune Big Band. Interval entertainment is tbc. A hog roast and bar are available or bring your own picnic. Tickets are £10 in advance or £12 on the night, accompanied under 16s go free. 6.30pm start. For tickets please call 0118 9832569. It really is the very best way to spend a summer evening.

We also have four 'check-out' Jumble Sales at St. John's Hall Mortimer. To keep things simple all items are 40p or 3 for £1 and you pay on the way out. Entry fee is 20p. We very much welcome donations at the hall from 9am. Dates for the sales are 9<sup>th</sup> Feb, 27<sup>th</sup> Apr, 14<sup>th</sup> Sep and 9th Nov. All start at 10.30am.

## Mortimer Music Live



Stay tuned for news on this year's summer tribute and a brand new Mortimer Jazz evening!

## Burghfield Camera Club

We restarted our programme on 10th January with an excellent presentation on "Close-up and Macro photography by Daniel Bridge.

On the 31st Jan we have a hands-on workshop about how to take better portraits at home using domestic lights, window light, reflectors etc. Bring your camera along and learn how to use lighting to the best effect. This should be a very interesting workshop.

Details of our full programme can be found at [www.burghfieldcameraclub.co.uk](http://www.burghfieldcameraclub.co.uk)

## Mortimer Film Club

It has been lovely to see new faces at the Club in recent months. Do please spread the word!

The Club meets on the third Wednesday of every month between September and June in the Community Centre on Mortimer Common. All are welcome and the cost is £5 per ticket. To be clear this helps us cover the license for the film and the room hire. We do not make a profit and in fact the sale of refreshments and our monthly raffle are also important ways we make ends meet.

There is ample car parking by the Community Centre and some of us adjourn to the Horse & Groom afterwards to discuss the film in a light-hearted way.

Our programme for the Spring and Summer of 2019 will be:

February - Lean on Pete  
March. - Finding your Feet  
April - Early Man  
May - Another Mother's Son  
June - Lost in Paris

Please come early (soon after 7pm) if you can help us put out the chairs and get the refreshments ready. We also very much appreciate everyone's help at the end with washing up and tidying away tables and chairs.

This is a Club that runs with the help of everyone who comes and we are always looking for people to make the tasty cake to serve with tea and coffee or to help serve these refreshments.

## Mortimer Surgery Patient Participation Group

Following on the success of previous events organised by the Mortimer Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG) we are currently preparing for another event in the evening of the **26<sup>th</sup> June at St Johns Hall in Mortimer**. Previously we have put on presentations which covered Diabetes, End of Life Planning and Healthy Heart with nearly 100 locals in attendance at each.

Please make a diary note for the next event, since seating is limited, details of which will be published on the Surgery Web Site.

## RNLI

The Mortimer and District branch of the RNLI (lifeboats) are looking to form a new committee to take over the Branch. **The AGM is on the 25th of March**, when we hope to there will be sufficient interest to keep this local fundraising branch open.

The chairman will give guidance and support over the next couple of years to support the new committee. Amongst running some of our successful events, we would like to look at having a special project to raise the funds for a new Spirit of Mortimer (as was previously done in 2005).



## Made in Mortimer

We are a group formed of artists and crafters who make/produce their own goods, all local to Mortimer and surrounding villages. We have two core purposes: a) to encourage and provide more craft activities for the village community and b) to help foster a more 'buy local' attitude in support of our local artisans by organising regular fairs and providing a supportive group to share ideas, ask advice etc between members.

We have two events coming up this Spring: In February we will be holding our next open crafting evening. We will be teaching the art of drawing for complete beginners - absolutely no artistic ability required! It is open to all and is a great opportunity to try a new skill in a lovely friendly, inviting group.

We will be also holding a Spring art and craft fair in March, where we will also have craft sessions to make a lovely handmade gift, just in time for Mother's Day.

We have restarted the children's free craft activity mornings at Mortimer Library. The next craft mornings will be held on **Saturday 9th February** and **Saturday 9th March**, from 10.30am-12.00pm and is suitable for children aged 3-11. This is a free drop in event, no booking is required, with a different activity each month.

Do look out for further details at the library.



If you would like to be kept up to date with further details of any of the above events, please 'like' our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/MadeinMortimer](http://www.facebook.com/MadeinMortimer), email us at [made.in.mortimer@gmail.com](mailto:made.in.mortimer@gmail.com) to be added to our newsletter or give Emma Vidal a call on 0118 933 1623. We will also update the MVP website once dates for the above have been confirmed.

## Mortimer Cricket Club

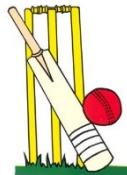
Mortimer CC had a very successful season in 2018, overcoming the very wet conditions immediately pre-season and the subsequent extremely dry summer, to have pitches available for Berkshire League cricket every Saturday throughout the season, as well as for the Reading Mid-Week league!



The Club consolidated their position in Division 3 of the Berkshire League, ending the season just outside of the promotion positions, but having built up a larger playing squad during the season. The Club were successful in winning 5 trophies this year, including the Berkshire League Fair Play trophy, which was gained with a perfect score! This represented a great year in the field for the Club.

Also notable this year, was the successful ground-share with Shinfield CC 3<sup>rd</sup> XI, who played at the Fairground on alternate Saturdays to MCC. Shinfield CC loved the experience of playing in Mortimer and have asked for it to be repeated in 2019

Additionally, MCC once again ran winter nets at the Willink School and have attained a grant for new practice artificial strips for the school and for our own use. The Club also continued its cricket coaching at St Mary's School. Both of these activities will be repeated in 2019. The Winter Nets begin on Sunday February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11am in the Willink Sports Hall. All welcome, please come along and have a go!



The Club is also looking for scorers and umpires, as well as new players of all abilities for the new season but everyone is welcome. If you'd like to find out more, please call Ian on: 07826 504425

## Mortimer Football Club



Mortimer FC's 2018/19 season has so far proved very successful for both the Saturday men's teams. The first team sit in 2nd place in the Thames Valley premier league at time of writing, with the reserves top of division 2. The Sunday team is having a mixed season, sitting in mid-table. Games take place at the Alfred Palmer Memorial Field on West End Road on Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings. Bar is always open for hot and cold drinks, all welcome to attend.

The club also has two under 12 sides who play in Reading each week on a Saturday morning, and both are having successful seasons in their respective divisions and in the Berks and Bucks cup competition.

New to the club is that we have founded the Mortimer FC soccer school which run on Saturday mornings. Qualified coaches take sessions for children of ages from 4-11 years old from 10-12 each week. These have proved very popular with some sessions attended by 30-40 children. These are operated on a voluntary donation basis, for both boys and girls, all abilities welcome.

Thankyou to our sponsors Sansome & George and Triangle Travel for their kind support, backing football in Mortimer

Please get in touch with club secretary Matthew Gabb on [matthew\\_gabb@hotmail.com](mailto:matthew_gabb@hotmail.com) or 07786 631027 for more info on any of the above or find us on facebook (search for "Mortimer FC") or twitter [@mortimervillage](https://twitter.com/mortimervillage).

## Mortimer Toddlers

Top 10 reasons to come to Mortimer Toddlers:

- Your small person gets to meet some other children of a similar age. They learn to socialise and share (we don't require them to be good at either skill already!)
- You get to meet some like-minded parents/ grandparents/ carers.
- There's lots of toys which we vary week to week; even if some are similar to what you have at home, you can be sure they'll find a new way to play with them at Toddlers!
- It's warm and dry even in the winter!
- Free tea and coffee for grown-ups (with cake once a month as a treat!)
- A variety of healthy snacks for your little one – it's a great way to get them to try something new.
- Messy or sensory play each week – let us do the clearing up.
- Whilst we appreciate every single tiny bit of help we can get, there is no parent rota- if you're not ready to help out that's ok.



- We always finish with a sing-song – a superb way to develop speech and language and who doesn't like to shake a maraca or two?
- Only £2.50 for all of this – so it's friendly on your pocket too.

If any of the above sounds attractive and you have a baby or Toddler aged 0-4years (we have a new thriving baby corner in another room for the tiny ones) then come and give us a try, it's 10-11:30am on term time Tuesdays in the Methodist Church hall in Mortimer. There's no commitment to come every week, nor to be on time or stay for the whole session. Look up Mortimer Toddlers on Facebook to keep up-to-date with our activities.

## Mortimer Walking Group: West Berkshire Walking for Health

Our walks have continued to be very popular and well supported throughout 2018. Tuesday walks are currently running as follows:

- 9:45 (long walk) is a faster-paced walk of approximately  $5\frac{1}{4}$  miles and lasts about  $1\frac{3}{4}$  hours,
- 10:00 regular walk at normal pace of approximately  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles lasting about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours,
- 10:30 a slower-paced walk mainly over flat terrain of approximately  $1\frac{3}{4}$  miles lasting about 1 hour. This walk is designed especially for people who are usually inactive or do little physical activity, would like to start walking, returning from illness or injury.

All the walks start and finish at the Community Centre car park and finish at approximately 11:30 with coffee in the Horse and Groom where all new walkers are made welcome.

All walks are planned and led by fully trained walk leaders, they are friendly and welcoming to all. This gives people the chance to get fit by exploring the many footpaths in the local and surrounding woodlands and open spaces of Mortimer and surrounding villages. Walkers of all abilities are welcome and all walks are free of charge. If you are interested in joining one of the walks just turn up 15 minutes before the start of the walk and introduce yourself to one of the walk leaders, identified by their fluorescent jackets.

We plan to re-commence the Monday evening walks again towards the end of April. To keep up to date on all our walks for 2019 please refer to the calendar on the MVP web site.

For more information on the benefits of walking go to <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/wfh> or [www.walkingforhealth.org.uk](http://www.walkingforhealth.org.uk).

## Mortimer Dramatic Society

**Can You Help?** Like a lot of clubs, the Mortimer Dramatic Society, is constantly trying to attract members to continue to provide the live theatre entertainment that our regular and growing audiences appreciate and enjoy. We have a small but enthusiastic team of people who enjoy the challenge of learning and voicing a script, and more such are always welcome. However, the biggest challenge we have right now is to recruit people who enjoy and can undertake the other essential backstage tasks such as; designing and building the set, cataloguing and running our costume and props departments, doing makeup and hairdressing and running our bar.

The folks we are seeking could conceivably be retired, semi-retired, or self-employed, but anyone and everyone over the age of 18 would be welcome.

As some of these jobs require an amount of physical strength and effort, we are very aware of Health & Safety rules and don't want to tax anyone beyond their limitations. No one must appear on stage, or front of house; unless they want to of course.

If you wanted to come along and help, then the commitment would be to give us some of your time on two weekends three times a year.

If you want to find out more about our cheerful and very sociable group then please give John Bull, or our Chairman Phil Collins, or Tom Shorrock, a call to arrange a sensible time to chat, socialise, and hopefully help to keep MDS a thriving local theatre group.



John Bull:	0755 269 5724
Phil Collins:	0776 921 8777
Tom Shorrock:	0778 533 3321

## Mortimer Tennis Club

With such mild weather during Autumn and the beginning of Winter we have seen a regular few playing tennis on the fairground courts. It's a good reminder that tennis doesn't just get played in the Summer. There is still time to try out some tennis alongside Mortimer Tennis Club members on a Monday morning from 10-11am if you are over 55 years old and from 11-12pm for everyone else. Up until March the court fee has been waived, it's a great way to get some exercise and sociable too.

We will start our summer season on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 6pm. We play on Tuesday and Thursdays from 6pm and on Sundays from 4pm. These are social tennis sessions for anyone wanting to get on court. Come along to your first sessions for free and try us out.

There has been interest in opportunities for younger members of the community to play tennis and we're delighted to welcome Tony Williams from CTC Tennis, a fully qualified Level 3+ coach, who has been coaching for Shinfield Tennis Club for some years. We really want to keep these sessions going so if you have little ones interested please do get in touch with him directly at [tony@ctc-tennis.co.uk](mailto:tony@ctc-tennis.co.uk) or through the Contact Us form on our website.

Our club really needs some extra volunteers. You don't have to play amazing tennis you just need to be willing to get involved. In particular we would like to have some locals willing to organise a junior tennis session. If you or someone you know might be interested please do get in touch.



For more information about our club go to [www.mortimertennisclub.co.uk](http://www.mortimertennisclub.co.uk)

## Mortimer St Mary's PTA

The Autumn half term saw another successful scarecrow trail. Over 2600 maps were sold with trail walkers came from all over the world! Winners and photos of the scarecrows can be found on the MVP website. The PTA of Mortimer St Mary's Junior School would like to thank Mortimer Village Partnership for allowing us to run the scarecrow trail this year and benefit from the proceeds for school swimming pool repairs. We are so grateful!

We would also like to say a MASSIVE thank to those without whom this event would be a non-entity: the scarecrow makers; Blue Array Ltd; Budgens; Dads Shop; Parkers; Spratley's; Mortimer Library; [pictureseverywhere.com](http://pictureseverywhere.com); the village pubs and cafe and the trail followers. Thank you one and all!

At the end of November, the children took part in their very own Bake Off with 4 categories available to enter. We had some fabulous and inventive entries and though Paul Hollywood didn't make an appearance some lovely ladies from Mortimer Women's Institute did. The W.I. ladies did a fantastic job of judging and tasting and provided some terrific feedback to the children.

SAVE THE DATES 2019: A few key dates to put in your diary for 2019. Further details will follow on the MVP Facebook page and website:

22nd March, Talent Show taking place at the Willink School.  
8th May, Race Night - promises to be lots of fun.  
15th June, Summer Fete  
13th July, Sports Tournament

## Bag 2 School

Did you know we have been collecting your unwanted clothes/bags/soft toys etc for recycling for TEN YEARS! In that time we have raised £20,366 for St. John's and St. Mary's Schools and latterly Willink as well. And even more impressive is that 44,968 Kgs of unwanted clothing has been recycled rather than be put into landfill. Thank you everyone for your support in this venture. Collection dates for this year are as follows:



Monday 25th February Village collection

Monday 24th June Village collection

Monday 14th October Village Collection

(Collection from St John's and St Mary's will be on the Tuesdays)

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

It was great to see so many locals, and those from outside the village, turn out to support and enjoy a terrifically huge bonfire and fantastic fireworks all in aid of supporting St John's Infant School. It is the school's biggest fundraiser of the calendar year and we would like to say a HUGE thank you to all the volunteers from across the village, not just parents in the school, who help to make this such a well-organized, fun and safe event. Date for the diary: 2019 Fireworks display will take place on Saturday 2nd November.

Mortimer St John's Infant School would like to thank the village for generously supporting our Christmas Fair and Santa's Grotto which were held on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2018. It was great to see so many families enjoying the fair and coming into the school for a community event. The events raised about £1,300 for the school which will go towards projects such as a school composter or renewing the school playground equipment. We would like to thank all those who helped to organise the two events, it was a good team effort and we appreciate you offering your skills and time for us. We would also like to thank all the local businesses who donated prizes for our raffle – we thank you for your on-going support of the village schools.

Our first event of 2019 is taking place in Spring – the May Fair on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 11am – 2pm. This is a great event for all the family – including; music, entertainment, a café, Pimms stall, face painting, tombola, raffle, a variety of games to play and delicious homemade cakes (and a few shop bought ones too!) So don't forget to come along and support our village Infant school, it is also a great opportunity for parents/carers of little ones to have a look around the school

## Mortimer West End Village Hall

Our next event is the ever-popular Woodland Walk and Barbecue. Provisionally planned for 21<sup>st</sup> July; more information to follow in the next newsletter and on our Facebook page

Regular events are:

### **MESSY PLAY - Sundays 9.00am – 12.00midday**

Starting on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb and running on Sundays to start with, this session is open to parents and toddlers looking to explore their creative side. Contact [jalpa.mistry85@gmail.com](mailto:jalpa.mistry85@gmail.com) for more details or to book.

### **PILATES CLASSES - Mondays 9.30 am and 10.45 am**

Please contact Wendy Gill 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.

### **INDOOR CYCLING CLASSES - Mondays 7.15 pm and 8.15 pm**

Please contact Craig Smith on 07842 833526 or email [craigsmithindoorcycling@outlook.com](mailto:craigsmithindoorcycling@outlook.com) for further information, or if you would like to book a place, or check out “Craig Smith Indoor Cycling” on Facebook.

### **CALLEVA WI – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month 7.30 pm – 10.00 pm**

Please contact Carole Wood on 0118 9700714 or email [carolewood@live.co.uk](mailto:carolewood@live.co.uk) if you would like further information.

And don't forget that the hall is available for hire at very reasonable rates for parties, meetings and events.

For further information about the hall, or to be added to our list of “friends” and receive updates about Mortimer West End events contact [mwevh@outlook.com](mailto:mwevh@outlook.com) or 0118-9700001. Please also visit us at [www.facebook.com/mwevillagehall](http://www.facebook.com/mwevillagehall)



## Burghfield Scouts

35 Scouts and Explorers plus 7 leaders from Burghfield and Sulhamstead Scout Group took an epic trip to an international camp in Denmark in the summer. The week was filled with fun activities, and cultural experiences along with meeting scouts from different counties.



If you are interested in joining our leadership team or registering your son/daughter to join the group, please email Andy on [burghfieldgsl@outlook.com](mailto:burghfieldgsl@outlook.com).

## Together In Mission

**Mortimer Community Carols:** It was great to see the Christmas Tree with its lights and star on the Fairground again this year, thanks to SMPC. The lights were switched on on Advent Sunday and remained until after Christmas. Well

over 100 people, gathered for the annual carol singing on Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>. Rev Dr Ruth Midcalf led and chose the carols, and the South Berks Concert band provided the music as only they can, with skill and volume. Our singing leader and soloist was Rachel Scarlett again. So, thank you all who helped in so many ways (setting up and taking down the marquee, providing lights, power and PA, and for those who read the Nativity story and the thoughtful poem). Carols have been a central part of the Christmas tradition for generations. The words as well as the tunes are familiar, and still carry the message that God came back to his world, as a baby in Bethlehem, for each one of us.

### **Café B at the Burghfield Common Methodist Church Hall**

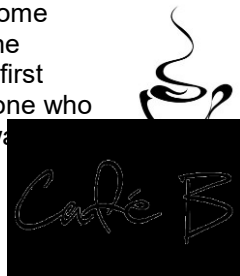
**Mondays 09:00-14:00 (except Bank Holidays) & Wednesdays 09:00-12:00**

We have opened again after the Christmas break and welcome regular and new customers. As a community café run by the community for the community, we currently need volunteer first aiders, baristas and cooks. We would like to welcome anyone who has even an hour spare. All training is provided. I look forward to seeing you in the café over the coming weeks.

Alex Lines, Manager Café B

[cafeb@togetherinmission.org.uk](mailto:cafeb@togetherinmission.org.uk) 07734 248462

<https://www.facebook.com/CommunityCaféB/>

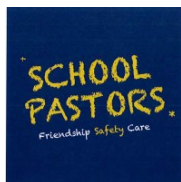


We welcome Lucy and Cee to our befriending team. We also welcome back Jenny Seward from a well-deserved break. Many clients and volunteers hugely enjoyed Christmas carols in Sulhamstead Village Hall on Dec 15<sup>th</sup>, with the dancing and the singing little princesses, who helped to make the event extra special. We have recently

thanked our volunteers for all their dedication to their clients by treating them to lunch at Trooper Potts Restaurant, Reading.

If you wish to know more about our service or would like to become a volunteer, please contact **Bev French, TiM Friends Coordinator**, 07748 686615 /

[bev@togetherinmission.org.uk](mailto:bev@togetherinmission.org.uk)



Our Co-ordinator, Libby writes: I am delighted to be back in role after a helpful break last term. Marcia is also able to re-join patrols at the Willink after a time of recuperation. Anthony is enjoying a pilgrimage in Ethiopia. He and Brenda will be patrolling again from the end of January. Two new members have come onto our Management Board, Ramona Radu and Chris Ward. We look forward to the encouragement and skills

they will bring. For more information about School Pastors contact **Libby Hawkness-Smith**, the Burghfield and Area School Pastors Coordinator.

[libby@togetherinmission.org.uk](mailto:libby@togetherinmission.org.uk) / 0777 891 1182

[www.facebook.com/TIMSchoolPastors](https://www.facebook.com/TIMSchoolPastors) and [www.twitter.com/TiM\\_Pastors](https://www.twitter.com/TiM_Pastors)

## **MVP Support For Local Groups**

### **MVP Affiliates Networking Fair Success & New 2019 Members**

In November, St. John's Hall was packed with displays, demonstrations and lively discussion, promoting our local groups. MVP welcomed representatives of affiliated groups to our Networking Fair with the aim to help them get the best out of MVP. The groups took the opportunity to meet one another, discovering ways to help each other out. MVP actively encourages all our affiliated groups to interact and work together and is pleased to welcome new members for 2019. The morning also saw the launch of our new website – if you haven't yet seen it, then take a look it's really user-friendly!

[www.mortimervillage.org.uk](http://www.mortimervillage.org.uk)

If you are part of a local group and would like to find out more about affiliating to MVP or if you have ideas about starting a new group, then contact Julie Carter on [juliekarter@gmail.com](mailto:juliekarter@gmail.com) or check out the Affiliate section on the website, under Main Activities→ Affiliate Support. All 2019 affiliated groups are listed here with contact details and website links where appropriate.

1st Burghfield & Sulhamstead Scouts & TAO Explorer unit	07867 800335	<a href="mailto:burghfieldgsl@outlook.com">burghfieldgsl@outlook.com</a>
1st Mortimer B P Scouts	933 2147	<a href="mailto:neiljohnson@btinternet.com">neiljohnson@btinternet.com</a>
1st Mortimer Brownies	933 3153	<a href="mailto:firstmortimerbrownies@hotmail.co.uk">firstmortimerbrownies@hotmail.co.uk</a>
1st Ufton Nerve Scout Group	07793 196863	<a href="mailto:cathryn@uftonscouts.com">cathryn@uftonscouts.com</a>
Alfred Palmer Memorial Field Trust		<a href="mailto:trustees@alfredpalmermemorialfield.org.uk">trustees@alfredpalmermemorialfield.org.uk</a>
B&M volunteer Drivers	983 1814	<a href="mailto:bureauvolunteer@gmail.com">bureauvolunteer@gmail.com</a>
Belle Canto Ladies	970 0001	<a href="mailto:info@bellecanto.uk">info@bellecanto.uk</a>
Burghfield & Mortimer 1st Responders		<a href="mailto:davidgregory2000@gmail.com">davidgregory2000@gmail.com</a>
Burghfield & Mortimer Handybus	983 6611	<a href="mailto:thehandybus@gmail.com">thehandybus@gmail.com</a>
Burghfield Camera Club		<a href="mailto:davehucker@hotmail.com">davehucker@hotmail.com</a>
Churches Together	983 2115	<a href="mailto:glynn.lautenbach@stmarysburghfield.org">glynn.lautenbach@stmarysburghfield.org</a>
Crafters Club		<a href="mailto:d.stroud2010@btinternet.com">d.stroud2010@btinternet.com</a>
Hurst Singers	933 2805 07882 40433	<a href="mailto:mariatseasons@aol.com">mariatseasons@aol.com</a>
Made in Mortimer		<a href="mailto:wellandemma@hotmail.com">wellandemma@hotmail.com</a>



Mortimer & District Branch of the RNLI	933 3741	<a href="mailto:j.r.bull@btinternet.com">j.r.bull@btinternet.com</a>
Mortimer 2012 WI		<a href="mailto:rachel@gorst.me">rachel@gorst.me</a>
Mortimer Bell Ringers	933 2200	<a href="mailto:mortimerbellringers@gmail.com">mortimerbellringers@gmail.com</a>
Mortimer Cricket Club		<a href="mailto:adsmith@gmail.com">adsmith@gmail.com</a>
Mortimer Dramatic Society	0778 533 3321	<a href="mailto:phil@geekstogether.com">phil@geekstogether.com</a> <a href="mailto:tshorrock@mrmerlin.com">tshorrock@mrmerlin.com</a>
Mortimer FC	07786 631027	<a href="mailto:mortimerfootballclub@gmail.com">mortimerfootballclub@gmail.com</a>
Mortimer Film Club		<a href="mailto:transformingbelinda@yahoo.co.uk">transformingbelinda@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Mortimer Gardening Club		<a href="mailto:pjsmarsh@hotmail.com">pjsmarsh@hotmail.com</a>
Mortimer Life	07446 239239	<a href="mailto:nickcarter1@gmail.com">nickcarter1@gmail.com</a>
Mortimer Local History Group	933 1310	<a href="mailto:munsonsinmortimer@yahoo.co.uk">munsonsinmortimer@yahoo.co.uk</a>
Mortimer Methodist Church	933 3689	<a href="mailto:amfoymusic@gmail.com">amfoymusic@gmail.com</a>
Mortimer Music Live CIC	07779 939495	<a href="mailto:info@mortimermusiclive.co.uk">info@mortimermusiclive.co.uk</a>
Mortimer Pre School Parents Committee		<a href="mailto:info@mortimerpreschool.org.uk">info@mortimerpreschool.org.uk</a>
Mortimer St Johns PAF	933 2242	<a href="mailto:office@msj.w-berks.sch.uk">office@msj.w-berks.sch.uk</a> <a href="mailto:gemmademelza@gmail.com">gemmademelza@gmail.com</a>
Mortimer St Mary's Junior School PTA	933 2491	<a href="mailto:mortstmarys@gmail.com">mortstmarys@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:gemmademelza@gmail.com">gemmademelza@gmail.com</a>
Mortimer Surgery Patients Participation Group	983 2377	<a href="mailto:grobinson.email@btinternet.com">grobinson.email@btinternet.com</a>
Mortimer Tennis Club		<a href="mailto:info@mortimertennisclub.co.uk">info@mortimertennisclub.co.uk</a>
Mortimer Toddler Group	933 2620	<a href="mailto:mortimertoddlers@gmail.com">mortimertoddlers@gmail.com</a>
Mortimer West End Produce Show	933 1823	<a href="mailto:melonybennet93@gmail.com">melonybennet93@gmail.com</a>
Mortimer West End Village Hall	07780 688771	<a href="mailto:mwevh@outlook.com">mwevh@outlook.com</a>
Plastic Free Mortimer	07842 921517	<a href="mailto:andreakimroach@gmail.com">andreakimroach@gmail.com</a>
Save the Children - Kennet Branch		<a href="mailto:rachel@gorst.me">rachel@gorst.me</a>
South Berks Concert Band	07759 967474	<a href="mailto:southberksconcertband@yahoo.com">southberksconcertband@yahoo.com</a>
Sulhamstead & Ufton Events (SUN-E)	983 2491	<a href="mailto:pisumcorporum@btinternet.com">pisumcorporum@btinternet.com</a>

Together in Mission	933 2569	<a href="mailto:info@togetherinmission.org.uk">info@togetherinmission.org.uk</a>
West Berkshire Walking 4 Health	07943 840414 933 2082	<a href="mailto:g.bedford414@btinternet.com">g.bedford414@btinternet.com</a>
Willink PTA		<a href="mailto:willink.pta@gmail.com">willink.pta@gmail.com</a>

## **Other Local News**

### **NatWest Community Banker**

If you find getting into a branch difficult and would like help and support to complete your banking, Christine McElhill holds a drop-in clinic every Tuesday in The Baobab in Mortimer between 1pm and 2.30pm. Christine can also support you with Online, Telephone and Mobile Banking and advise on how to stay safe online and recognise Scams. For those NatWest customers who are housebound Christine can complete home visits.

You can contact Christine on 07552260250 or email:

[christine.mcelhill@natwest.com](mailto:christine.mcelhill@natwest.com)

### **Toy Library**

Did you know there is a service which entertains children, saves money, reduces plastic and keeps houses tidier?

When I first started using the Toy Library, it was a revelation. My little boy played with a wider range of toys than I was prepared to buy. The noisy ones could be returned and the ones he loved I could renew. No more spending money on toys which were abandoned after a few weeks of play. Toy Library meant I could easily hire toys which matched his skills at that time, then return them.

It's cheap, only 50p - £2 to hire toys for a month. It's environmentally friendly. It's local. Over 400 indoor and outdoor toys, games and puzzles for babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers and older children are stored at the Mortimer Methodist Church Hall. The library also loans useful items for parents like buggy boards, bumbos, baby swings, gro clocks, bath seats, play mats etc. We also do party packages, which give you enough toys to entertain all your children's friends whether at home or in a hall. For example: the ride-on package, transport package with trains and diggers, tea party package. So whether you have young children coming to visit, unsure if your child would really enjoy that expensive toy, want to save on storage space - consider Toy Library. Come and try before you buy, Most of the toys are pictured on our Facebook group *Burghfield Toy Library*. We are always looking for volunteers, so if you are interested in free toy loans, contact Janet Sykes 07733297741.

Opening times at Mortimer Methodist Church:

**Every Tuesday** during term time 10 - 11.30 in the foyer (alongside Toddlers in the hall) Last entry 11.15 so we can pack away

**First Saturday** of the month 10 - 11 (In the lounge at the back, alongside bric-a-brac in the hall)

## St. John's Hall

Users of the Village Hall may notice a few improvements. On the lighting, apart from the initial switch to put the main (now LED) lights on, most of the other lights are controlled by robots, (not always successfully!). We are also planning to improve the crockery and cutlery available to our hirers.

Our hire rate (which has remained the same since 2012) will have to change, the main increases (there are some decreases) will affect those on the lowest rate. These will take effect from 30th Sept 2019.

## West Berkshire Village Agents - *The Community Connectors*

Do you need help finding the right information and advice? Do you or someone you know have problems that affect health, well-being or an ability to remain independent?

The Village Agent scheme is a free scheme which has been operated by the Volunteer Centre West Berkshire for 5 years now and has helped many residents in the Mortimer area. A trained and trusted volunteer will call and then provide face-to-face support. They have the time and knowledge to be able to solve some of life's problems and assist in finding help, when you do not know where to start.

The scheme helps link anyone who is over 18 and feeling socially isolated; to the many services available that can help people to get out and about in their communities or to live in their own homes for longer. We do cover Mortimer with the help of our volunteers in the surrounding area, so please do contact us. We are also looking to recruit new Village Agents for Mortimer and surrounding areas. Could you Volunteer?



If you would like to know more about the scheme call our direct line: **01635 581001** and speak to Gill or email [gillian@vcwb.org.uk](mailto:gillian@vcwb.org.uk)

## Potholes and other problems



West Berkshire Council has a rather long, but very useful, website address:

[http://www.westberks.gov.uk/servicerequests/describe\\_case.aspx?lev=0](http://www.westberks.gov.uk/servicerequests/describe_case.aspx?lev=0)

You can use this site and follow the simple links to report:-Potholes, Flooding of a Road, Broken Streetlights, Speeding Traffic, Dog Fouling on Pavements and Abandoned Vehicles.

You can also report problems with a Pavement, Permanent Traffic Lights, Road Crossings, Work Carried out by Utility Companies and Road Signs or Nameplates. Other nuisances such as Fly Tipping, Grass that needs cutting, Trees or Shrubbery that require attention and removal of Dead Animals can also be reported but please bear in mind that their location may preclude the WBC from taking action.

## **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>Secretary</b>	<b>John Hannawin</b>	<a href="mailto:john@i-next.co.uk">john@i-next.co.uk</a>	933 2577
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Ali Richardson</b>	<a href="mailto:alison.richardson1964@gmail.com">alison.richardson1964@gmail.com</a>	
<b>Affiliates Sec</b>	<b>Julie Carter</b>	<a href="mailto:juliekcarter77@gmail.com">juliekcarter77@gmail.com</a>	933 2265

*MVP Committee meetings are at 7:30pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month (except August and December) in the meeting room at the Methodist hall. All MVP meetings are open to participation from anyone; all we ask is that you are interested in making Mortimer a vibrant and fun place to live. We are fortunate to have many who regularly work with MVP on particular projects such as the website, Facebook page, looking after our equipment or helping to organise our annual events.*

*You are most welcome regardless of how much or little time you have to give. **General enquiries** can be made via Contact Us at:*

[www.mortimervillage.org.uk](http://www.mortimervillage.org.uk)

*MVP is pleased to announce that Sansome & George are kindly helping the village and MVP by contributing half of the production cost of this newsletter.*



[www.sansomeandgeorge.co.uk](http://www.sansomeandgeorge.co.uk)

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