

# Mortimer Village Partnership

## Newsletter



Mortimer Village Partnership  
Enriching Village Life

October 2019

*All this and more available on  
our website*

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



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

### Autumn and Winter - The season for Scarecrows and Bears

Returning after our summer break, we're all energised for a busy autumn and winter but before we look forward, on behalf of the MVP, let me say a massive thank you and well done to the St. Mary's School PTA for staging the Mortimer Festival on the Fairground back in July. By all accounts the sports activities were a lot of fun and many people stayed for a great evening of live music.

This edition has lots of information about forthcoming activities and dates for your diaries, but do remember to check latest info on our website [mortimervillage.org.uk](http://mortimervillage.org.uk) of not only MVP events but also those of all of our affiliates.

The October half term holiday will bring, what for many people is their favourite Mortimer event, the Scarecrow Trail, back to the village now in its 10th year... promising to have lots of surprises since this year the "Anything Goes" theme means there is no theme and allow the Scarecrow maker's imagination run riot.

This year's Pantomime is the timeless story of house breaking, trespass, vandalism and theft..... a very 2019 story although how when you throw Goldilocks and some cuddly bears into the mix, it all seems acceptable. I'm sure it will all have a happy ending..... OH YES IT WILL ! Now, who's been eating my porridge?

The season also brings trips to a London Carol Concert to look forward to and the MVP Lunch Club Xmas Lunch, along with various Concerts, Guided Walks, Xmas bazaars etc.

It's great living in such a busy community.

**Doug Overett**  
Chairman -MVP

## More from MVP

### Scarecrow Trail - Anything Goes!

Once again, get on your walking shoes, jump on your bikes and hop on your skateboards as the Scarecrow Trail returns along with this year's autumn half term holiday. Running from **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October to Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November** inclusive, the scarecrows will be on show daily from 9am to dusk each day. The trail finishes at 4:00pm on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>.



This year is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Scarecrow Trail, and to mark the occasion the theme is Anything Goes! Look out for a whole host of famous celebrities, T.V. and film characters from The Little Mermaid to Freddie Mercury. As in previous years, it will be an excellent way of keeping the kids - both small and not so small - entertained during the half term week. Trail followers will be able to vote for their choice of scarecrow in each one of three categories and have the chance to win £50 in the trail competition. The "Just For Fun" quiz will be about the characters themselves - make sure you are armed with paper and pen!

Costing just £1, trail maps will be available from [Budgens](#), [Dads Shop](#) and [The Baobab](#) from Thursday October 24<sup>th</sup>. Budgens are 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. ***A 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 Horse & Groom on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November from 6 - 6:30pm.

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 [keefield@gmail.com](mailto:keefield@gmail.com) or go to [www.mortimervillage.org.uk](http://www.mortimervillage.org.uk)

### Christmas Panto 2019 - Goldilocks

**Bears, Chairs and Porridge.... December 14<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm and 4:30pm**

This year the MVP is bringing to the village a brand new production from Gary Starr Pantomimes the story of Goldilocks and the Three bears. We all know the story, Goldilocks goes into the three bear's house and tries out the chairs, the porridge and beds..... but I suspect a chorus of BabyShark will again find its way into the story!

Tickets for both performances are on sale via the MVP website and follow the link. As in the past, if you act quickly to our marketing, then Early Bird special prices will be available to keep the costs as low as possible and of course there are no train fares or parking charges to pay!

As always this will be a noisy fun occasion with lots of shouting, screaming and singing..... and hopefully the children will join in again too! Ha ha!!

Special thanks to **Mortimer Dramatic Society** who have again offered to provide stage lighting.

For early info join MVP VIP Mail List, please send your details to [Boxoffice@mortimervillage.org.uk](mailto:Boxoffice@mortimervillage.org.uk) with "VIP PANTO" in the subject line.



## What's happening in Mortimer?

Are you involved in organising anything in the village that you want more people to know about and come to? Football coaching? A quiz? A ceilidh? A Christmas Fair? Activities for children? A concert? A meeting open to the public? A one-off thing? A regular happening? Any of these and lots more.

If you send the details to the MVP website (using the Contact Us form via the bottom of the Home page <https://www.mortimervillage.org.uk/Contact>) it will get included in the Calendar on that website. That way more people will know about it - entries are easy to find and stay there until the date has passed. Although Facebook is also a good way of letting people know what is happening, on a busy page your post can soon be pushed down into oblivion. If you get into the Calendar as soon as you have set the date (even if not all the details are available - they can be added later) then people planning other events can see what is already happening and hopefully clashes can be avoided. Making the maximum use of this service provided by MVP can benefit your organisation.

If you go to the website calendar <https://www.mortimervillage.org.uk/calendar> you will see that some groups in the village are already doing this. The Walking for Health group have each of their weekly walks listed there every week. Your meeting or event can be there too!



## MVP Committee

The Committee meets on the second Wednesday most months in the Library. Next meeting dates are: **9<sup>th</sup> October**, **13<sup>th</sup> November** and **8<sup>th</sup> January**. Please do join us whether it's to bring ideas, learn more about what we do or join us on a regular basis we'd be very pleased to see you.

## **MVP Affiliate News**

### **Mortimer Netball Club**

Mortimer Netball Club have started the new netball season raring to go. We now have three teams in the Reading and District midweek league. Our Sapphires team is newly promoted to Division 1 this season and started off with a win in their first match. The Diamonds (Div3) and Rubies (Div4) had a more ahem 'leisurely' start to the season, but are looking forward to their next matches to get into winning form! The club has attracted some new members this season, who are playing well and integrating into the teams. Long time member Sam Moon will undertake her England Netball Level 2 coaching course, doubling the number of fully qualified coaches. The club is always looking for new members, please feel free to come along to training on a Monday night. Contact [mortimernetball@gmail.com](mailto:mortimernetball@gmail.com) for more details.

### **Mortimer Benefice**

These are the upcoming services and events in the benefice:

Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> October 10 am	St. Mary's, Mortimer	Sung Eucharist for Harvest
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November 7:30 pm	St. John's, Mortimer	The Annual All Souls' Requiem in Thanksgiving and Prayer for Departed Loved Ones
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> November 11 am	The War Memorial	Act of Remembrance, the service continues after at St. John's, Mortimer
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> November 10 am to 2 pm	St. John's Village Hall	St. John's Church Christmas Bazaar
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> December 6 pm	St. John's, Mortimer	Advent Procession
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 4 pm	St. Mary's, Mortimer	The Carol Service; The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols - followed by refreshments
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December 9:45 am	St. John's, Mortimer	Advent Workshop - please email <a href="mailto:admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk">admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk</a> to book
Christmas Eve 3 pm and 5 pm	St. John's, Mortimer	Christingle Services - please email <a href="mailto:admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk">admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk</a> to book
Christmas Eve 11:30 pm	St. John's, Mortimer	Midnight Mass
Christmas Day 8 am and 10 am	St. John's, Mortimer	Eucharist

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

### Mortimer Bonfire & Firework Display

Back for another year is our annual Bonfire & Fireworks display on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2019** at Drury Lane, Mortimer RG7 2JJ. This year promises to be even bigger and better than previous years with a fully licensed bar serving beer, cider, mulled wine & more as well as a variety of fantastic food suppliers. One not to miss, gates open from 5pm and tickets can be purchased in **Budgens, McColls, The Baobab, Dads Shop, Wellers, Nisa and Parkers**. Also available online from [ticketsource.co.uk](http://ticketsource.co.uk) (online booking fee applies) soon. Please follow the Facebook page for more news: [@MortimerBonfire](https://www.facebook.com/MortimerBonfire). It is the biggest fundraiser for the school so please do come out and enjoy the spectacular show!

### Christmas Fair

Calling all local crafters and entrepreneurs! Our Christmas Fair will be on **Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December**. It's a great opportunity for local entrepreneurs 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.

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

Please come and join us on the 7<sup>th</sup> to start your Christmas shopping locally whilst enjoying a glass of mulled wine, tea/coffee & cake, raffle, lots of games and fun as well as a chance to spot the big man himself!

## Football Club

MORTIMER FC continue to run a kids soccer school on Saturday morning at the Alfred Palmer Memorial Field. This is run by FA qualified coaches for primary school aged children from 4-11 years. The younger children (4-7) from 10am and the older (8-11) from 11am.

In addition, we now have two U9 and two U13 sides in the Berkshire Youth Development League and are happy to discuss any thoughts villagers may have on running extra teams if there is the appetite.

On a Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning our mens teams (Saturday firsts/reserves and Sundays) play at the field, and we have a tea bar/licenced bar open while those games are on and afterwards.



More the merrier, please come along for a welcoming family atmosphere. Any questions please contact us via our facebook/twitter (search Mortimer FC) or contact club secretary Matthew Gabb on 07786631027

**Up the Villagers!**



## Mortimer Pre-School



We've just started our new academic year at Mortimer Pre-School. We have about 20 new children joining us this term for new learning adventures.

Did you know we're also running a Breakfast and After-School club on Tuesdays and Thursdays? If you've previously been unable to join us because of work or other commitments, then hopefully the new longer hours may work for you.

Around 20 of our former Pre-Schoolers are having their first days in school as you read this. We wish them the very best of luck on their new adventures (although we'll miss them!), but we know they're going to be great! We celebrated with family and friends at the end of term with a party and show on the stage telling our favourite story, singing songs, demonstrating our yoga, building skills and writing.

The Pre-School are hosting the following events on the run up to Christmas:

On **Saturday 16th November** we'll be hosting a Ceilidh (all welcome) at St. John's hall at 7pm with live band and licensed bar. Tickets will be on sale from October from preschool and various locations around the village - contact Emma for more details on 0118 933 1623;

On **Saturday 21st December** Proteus will be coming to perform one of their fabulous puppet shows at St. John's hall (again all welcome!). Follow the Pre-School Facebook page (or keep your eyes open on MVP) to find out more - tickets will be on sale from December.

If you are interested in joining us then please get in touch at [admissions@mortimerpreschool.org.uk](mailto:admissions@mortimerpreschool.org.uk), we have sessions available for 3 Year Olds from September, and for 2 Year Olds from January.

## Save the Children - Kennet Branch

2019 is Save the Children's Centenary and to mark this Save the Children Kennet Branch are bringing together two fabulous choirs, the Arborfield Military Wives Choir and The Barberettes for an evening of song at St. Mary's Church, Burghfield Village, RG30 3TG on **Saturday 28th of September** from 7:30pm. Tickets are £10 including tea and coffee (accompanied under 16s free). The evening will include a performance of the Save the Children centenary anthem 'Song for a Child'. For tickets to this event please call Clare on 07971 241222.



**Save the Children**  
100 YEARS

Save the Children Kennet Branch have two 'check-out' Jumble Sales at St. John's Hall, Mortimer on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> of September and Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> of November. All items are 40p or 3 for £1, entry is 20p. We welcome jumble donations at the hall from 9am but regret we cannot take items with a plug.

## Hurst Singers



### Fancy a Bit of Harmony in these Confusing Times?

Do you sing in the bath? ..in the car? ..in a football crowd? Maybe you play an instrument and would like to try singing? Do you want to keep your brain in tip-top condition by reviving or learning some new skills?

Have you thought of joining a choir? The Hurst Singers meet most Thursdays at St. John's Hall Mortimer and would love some new members - especially men with deep voices! - but everyone's welcome.

A wide mix of people turn up every week and it's sociable, local and fun. Our repertoire is wide-ranging: from classical and religious, to folk, modern popular music and the musicals - so there's no time to get bored. We sing four-part pieces, with soprano, alto, tenor and bass parts so you need to be able to sing in tune and follow the music. Resources can often be found on the internet to aid learning, and established members always help newcomers. And - especially if you are not really experienced - it's a new challenge that's really good brain-training!! What matters is a willingness to join in and have a go. Of course, experienced singers are welcome too!

It's amazing how what seems a bit of a challenge at first comes together to sound really good as we get towards concert time.

Get in contact with us for more details, or turn up at 7:30pm on a Thursday evening! [thehurstsingers@gmail.com](mailto:thehurstsingers@gmail.com) <http://thehurstsingers.org>

## Burghfield And Mortimer Volunteer Bureau

We would like to again thank the **Good Exchange** and **Greenham Common Trust**, as well as **West Berkshire Council** and **Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council** for their kind donations towards the funding of the Burghfield and Mortimer Volunteer Bureau. Without their funding we would not be able to carry on.

We have had over 15 new clients in the last quarter and thankfully 2 new drivers have also joined us. We have a total of 353 registered clients.

We had our Annual General Meeting in May which was a chance to meet all our drivers as well as review our workload. Sadly, our Chairperson Derek Seward has stepped down but we are fortunate to have gained a new one in the form of Steve Carter. Steve, originally from Peterborough, has been in the Royal Navy as well as working in the Renewable Energy sector. He is very passionate about the environment and also local communities. He has lived in the area for 25 years and says he is lucky enough to be retired so that he can give something back by being a Volunteer Driver.





## BURGHFIELD & MORTIMER VOLUNTEER

# DRIVERS NEEDED\*

Can you spare some time?

We urgently need more **VOLUNTEER DRIVERS\***

Please call **0118 983 1814**



\*to take patients to  
Hospital/doctor appts.



If you are reading this and have a bit of time to spare, please consider joining us. We have drivers who do one drive a month as well as those who drive 3 times per week. It is as flexible as you want it to be.

Please email [bureauvolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:bureauvolunteer@gmail.com) if you want more information.

## Mortimer Methodist Church

### CHRISTMAS CEILIDH

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December  
from 7:00pm

Live band with Festival Caller, Mike Courthold  
Non-alcoholic drinks available

Tickets £17

(including supper catered by The Hatch Gate)

Available from Chris Meakin 0118 933 2782

## Coming to Mortimer in 2020...



a group where Dads, father figures and their children (aged 0-7 years) can have fun together!

**When?** One Saturday a month, for 2 hours

**What?** Toys and Games, Craft and Refreshments

**Where?** Mortimer Methodist Church,  
17 West End Road, RG7 3TB

Watch the usual village media outlets for more details

We look forward to welcoming you in the New Year!

## Mortimer Cricket Club



The 2019 season was a memorable one for **champions** Mortimer CC.

Having returned to Saturday league cricket a few years ago, Mortimer romped away with the Berkshire Cricket League Division Three title to secure promotion to Division Two.

It was a terrific achievement from captain Craig North and the players and a superb advertisement for local and village cricket. Matches were played in the right spirit and the team bond between players is stronger than ever.



Meanwhile, Mortimer's midweek cricket team had a tough season but did manage to avoid relegation.

The midweek side remains one of the club's many success stories, drawing in players from other clubs such as Mortimer West End and Bradfield. The team is a real mixture and it is great to see players from so-called 'rival' clubs playing alongside each other under the Mortimer CC banner.

We also have a new arrangement with Mortimer WE and Sulhamstead cricket clubs where our own players turn out for their friendly Sunday teams. Again, it is satisfying to see such close links being formed with our neighbours.

However, Mortimer CC is about so much more than senior cricket. During the summer, we run free coaching for children every Sunday morning on the fairground where all boys and girls are welcome. We also arrange a number of social and fundraising events throughout the year which can be found on our facebook page.

The Mortimer players continued their celebrations with a tour to Chester and North Wales and we will shortly be announcing dates of our winter nets at Willink School - again check our facebook page.

None of this would be possible without the hard work of a team of volunteers behind the scenes - we salute you!

And finally, a huge 'thank you' to our sponsors [Mortimer Chocolate Company](#), [The Horse & Groom](#), [Burghfield Spices \(Hatch Gate Inn\)](#) and [Berkshire Hampshire Heatpumps Ltd](#) for your continued support. It makes a huge difference.

Mortimer CC is always on the lookout for new players. If you would like to get involved please email chairman, Adrian Smith, at [adrsmith@gmail.com](mailto:adrsmith@gmail.com)

## Mortimer Baby & Toddler Group

Please note our new name - we have included the word Baby to emphasise that parents or carers with any age baby are just as welcome as those with full blown toddlers! We are still the same friendly group, meeting on Tuesdays in term time from 10:00 to 11:30 am in the Mortimer Methodist Church Hall. We have a cosy, safe corner for the babies who would like to be down on the floor and lots of varied toys and fun activities for the toddlers. You are all assured a friendly welcome and people to chat to. The cost is £2.50 for one child and accompanying adult(s) plus an extra 50p for any other children over 12 months old. That includes a healthy snack for the children and tea/coffee for adults. Come and try us out! You can contact us via our Facebook page



## Mortimer West End Village Hall

Our next event is the annual **QUIZ NIGHT - Saturday 12th October 7:30pm**  
Tickets are £8.50 (including a ploughman's supper). You are welcome to bring your own drinks and snacks.

With a trophy at stake, pit your wits against the best in the village.  
Put together your own unbeatable team or come on your own and make some new friends! Please **book your place in advance** (for catering purposes!) by phone 0118 970 0001 or email [mwevh@outlook.com](mailto:mwevh@outlook.com)

Recent events have been the FAMILY TREASURE TRAIL WOODLAND WALK AND BARBECUE and MORTIMER WEST END PRODUCE SHOW. Both events were very popular and enjoyed by all. There are lots of photos of both events at [www.facebook.com/mwevillagehall](http://www.facebook.com/mwevillagehall) if you want to see what you missed!

Our regular events are:

PARTIES, EVENTS & MEETINGS	Don't forget that the hall is available for hire at very reasonable rates
PILATES CLASSES	Mondays 9:30 am and 10:45 am Contact Wendy Gill on 07961 102535 or email <a href="mailto:wendygill44@yahoo.co.uk">wendygill44@yahoo.co.uk</a>
INDOOR CYCLING CLASSES	Mondays 7:15 pm and 8:15 pm Contact Craig Smith on 07842 833526 or email <a href="mailto:craigsmithindoorcycling@outlook.com">craigsmithindoorcycling@outlook.com</a>
CALLEVA WI	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month 7:30 pm Contact Carole Wood on 0118 9700714 or email <a href="mailto:carolewood@live.co.uk">carolewood@live.co.uk</a>
YOGA WITH ANNA	<b>Fridays 10:30 am</b> Contact Anna on 07576 556730

## Made in Mortimer

Visitors to Mortimer library may have spotted our new display cabinet - many thanks to librarian **Sean Hynes** for coming up with the idea/making it happen and to **David Glover** for making this on behalf of our group. It provides an excellent space to showcase some of the fantastic designs and creations made by the group so do please take a look. We also have a number of upcoming events:



**Children's craft mornings - 12<sup>th</sup> Oct, 9<sup>th</sup> Nov & 14<sup>th</sup> Dec:**

Our free, drop in craft sessions run on the 2nd Saturday of the month from 10:30-12 at Mortimer library, for children aged 3-11. No need to book, just turn up and join in!

### Jewellery craft evening - Thursday 17th October:

8pm, Community Centre: Make your own piece of jewellery! Each person will make two pairs of origami earrings - why not create a unique Christmas gift for someone special? All materials and refreshments provided, cost just £10 per person. Booking essential - please message us via our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/MadeinMortimer](https://www.facebook.com/MadeinMortimer) or call Emma Vidal on 0118 933 1623.

### Autumn Fair - Saturday 26th October:

10-3pm, Methodist Church: Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Autumn Fair! Come along and see the fabulous creations the talented folk of Made in Mortimer have been making! Also the perfect pit stop whilst completing the scarecrow trail 😊

### Christmas shopping event - Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December:

5-9pm, St. John's Hall: A lovely evening to enjoy browsing for beautiful locally made gifts whilst enjoying some festive drinks and nibbles.

## **Mortimer Walking Group: West Berkshire Walking for Health**



All our walks continue to be very popular and well supported. The 10:30 short walk has seen numbers increase and regularly attract 12 to 14 participants. The Monday evening walk, which has again increased in popularity with an average of 18 walkers each week, ceased at the end of September.

If you would like to enjoy the great outdoors, improve your health, fitness and explore the many footpaths and countryside within a 2 to 3 mile radius of the village, why not join us on one of three Tuesday walks below.

**09:45:** a walk at a quicker pace of approximately 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> miles and last about 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> hours,

**10:00:** a walk at normal pace of approximately 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> miles lasting about 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hours,

**10:30:** a slow paced walk mainly over flat terrain of approximately 2 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, injury or joint replacements.

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 and introduce yourself to one of the walk leaders, identified by their fluorescent jackets. All the walks start and finish at the Community Centre car park opposite the Horse and Groom Public House.

To keep up to date on all our walks for 2019/20 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)

## Dementia and Mental Health Awareness in Older Adults

On 26<sup>th</sup> June Mortimer Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG) organised an educational event for those living with Dementia or caring for people with this condition. The meeting was held in St. John's Hall and attended by 85 guests. The PPG, with the support of Mortimer Surgery, provide these educational events at least once a year and have previously covered Diabetes, Healthy Heart and End of Life planning. Presentations were given by

**Dr Matt Evans**, Consultant Old Age Psychiatrist, (Newbury Older Persons Mental Health Service) who covered what Dementia is and what we can do about it;

**Michelle Berry**, Reading Borough Council Wellbeing Service (Directorate of Adult Care) *Dementia Friendly Communities* she explained about Reading Dementia Action Allowance;

**Kelly Dodd**, Alzheimers Society (Dementia Support Worker) covering Dementia Services available in Berkshire;

**Sarah Morland**, Partnership Manager at Reading Voluntary Action (Working in Partnership with Age UK) *Linking people with Community Organisations for Wellbeing* regarding Social Prescribing

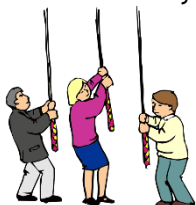
and **Stephen Hammond**, Carer/Support Worker (Carers Hub) *Support Available for Unpaid Carers*

The event was deemed a great success, assisted by members of the Surgery, PPG, MVP staff, and Panama Systems for microphone support. There will be further events held in the future and should you have any suggestions for subjects and content which you would find useful please email the PPG on [ppgmortimersurgery@gmail.com](mailto:ppgmortimersurgery@gmail.com)

## Mortimer Bell Ringers

Have you ever wondered how and by whom, the church bells are rung? We are a small group of 12 ringers from Mortimer, Burghfield and surrounding areas who ring for Church Services, Weddings and various village events. Some of us are churchgoers, some are not.

It is a most rewarding activity carrying on the tradition of what is called 'change ringing' which was established in England, in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. We practise on a Monday evening and ring at, St. John's and St. Mary's, where they have been ringing the same bells since the 1890's. The bells themselves are the same although most moving parts have been updated recently. We also occasionally ring in the lovely old Norman church of Padworth.



Perhaps you would like to know more about bell ringing and to see what we do. Perhaps you learned many years ago and feel it is too late to return to ringing. Wrong!! It's never too late to come back. Either way, please contact us at: [mortimerbellringers@gmail.com](mailto:mortimerbellringers@gmail.com)

## Mortimer Dramatic Society

### Presents **Di, Viv and Rose** - October 18th, 19th, 25th & 26th

Crackling with wisdom and wit, *Di, Viv and Rose* by Amelia Bullmore is a play that offers a humorous and thoughtful exploration of friendship's impact on life and life's impact on friendship. Based in St. John's Hall, Mortimer, MDS offers an evening's entertainment for a fraction of the cost of a theatre trip to London! You can book tickets online through our website and we have a bar for pre-theatre, interval and post-theatre drinks.

In January, we are doing a musical show! Auditions take place early November and we would love to see you if you'd like to be involved. As well as acting opportunities, we have backstage and front of house activities and, because it's a musical show for all the family, we are also looking for some youth performers aged 10+ to sing, dance and act with us.

We also run activities throughout the year to keep our members entertained, such as our quiz and games nights and our members especially enjoy the annual Christmas event and summer BBQ.



Mortimer Dramatic Society

Find out more by visiting our revamped website! [www.mortimer-dramatic.org](http://www.mortimer-dramatic.org)

## 1<sup>st</sup> Mortimer BP Scout Group



September brings the start of another Scouting year, our 110<sup>th</sup>!

The Autumn and Winter terms with their long dark and often cold evenings brings with it new challenges for our Cubs and Scouts. Naturally the instinct is to move indoors but in keeping with our long tradition of enjoying the great outdoors we do our utmost to continue to enjoy our lovely countryside which here in Mortimer we have an abundance.

Scout leaders from across the country will be arriving in November to attend training courses, scouts from various groups will be coming to practice their map reading and hiking skills.

We have a fun packed programme planned for our own Cubs and Scouts during the coming months with the emphasis on gaining more proficiency badges in a wide range of subjects. Our Scouts will be attending our annual October half term camp and Cubs from several other groups will be joining our own pack in November for our annual Cub adventure weekend which is always great fun.

Preparations are underway to organise a competition Memorial Hike next March in memory of our former Group Scoutmaster and Life President "Skip" Johnson who passed away in January we will be inviting Scouts from across the whole country to attend. Exciting times ahead!!!



We do now have a few spaces in our Cub Pack and Scout Group so if your Son or Daughter is looking to have some fun and adventure please get in touch. Our Scouts meet on a Monday Evening 7:30 to 9:30  
Our Cubs meet on Tuesday Evening 7:00 to 8:15  
Neil Johnson, Group Scoutmaster, [neiljohnson@btinternet.com](mailto:neiljohnson@btinternet.com)

## Mortimer 2012 WI



Mortimer 2012 W.I. have had a busy first half of the year with trips to the National Needlework Archive, the Gardens at Old Camps and Mapledurham Mill. We celebrated the centenary of the Berkshire Federation of Women's Institutes with a garden party with members dressing in fashion from the past century. We are grateful to the bell ringers of St. John the Evangelist who rang the bells on the evening of the garden party to commemorate the centenary. Members have also had the opportunity to take up walking netball via an initiative run in conjunction with England Netball.

Members have begun donating clean ladies and gentlemen's clothes to support Royal Berkshire Hospital's 'Dress for Dignity' campaign. This campaign and the clothes donated allow patients who have come in to hospital as an emergency, or who may not have relatives living close by who can bring them spare clothing to get up and dressed whenever possible during their time in hospital. This is believed to aid recovery and lets patients regain independence.

Mortimer 2012 W.I. will be providing a 'refreshment stop' for those on the Scarecrow Trail (and anyone else who wants to pop along) on **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> of October** at the Community centre. We hope you will join us between 10am - 4pm for a hot drink, savoury snack and, of course, a piece of cake.

We invite women from Mortimer and surrounding areas to come along and give us a try. We meet on the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm at the Community Centre opposite the Horse and Groom.

come back. Either way, please contact us at: [mortimerbellringers@gmail.com](mailto:mortimerbellringers@gmail.com)

## Mortimer St. Mary's Junior School PTA

Thank you to everyone who came out on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2019 and supported our Mortimer Summer Festival at the Fairground. We really felt it was a great community event for all the village.

The day kicked off with a genuinely 'fun' 2.5k fun run, sponsored by **Fit4sports**, which over 100 people entered and completed in the warm morning sun. There followed a variety of sports and activities that children and adults could participate in run by our fabulous local sports teams whilst



enjoying a burger, beer or afternoon tea. It finished with some fantastic local bands entertaining and keeping the crowds dancing well into the night.

We would like to say a VERY special thanks to our wonderful sponsors, without their support none of it would be possible, including **TA Fisher, Parkers Burghfield Estate Agents, Spratley's of Mortimer** and **Budgens Mortimer**.

Our thanks also goes to **Made in Mortimer** for supporting our event and turning up to sell some wonderful, homemade products. We would like to thank **Out of the Blue Fish n'Chips, Lucky Clover Ice Cream van & Whittles Fairground** for coming on the day and donating a percentage of their profits to the Mortimer St. Mary's PTA Charity. Thanks to **Mortimer Music Live** for loaning us reusable glasses, a bar and credit card machines and also a big shout out to **MVP** for approaching us to run the day in the first place and their fab volunteers who helped with set-up and on the day, even though it was their 'year off'!

Lastly we mustn't forget to thank 3 chaps from the village who helped form our planning committee and were an integral part of organising the day. A big THANK YOU goes to **Richard Coles, Neil Kiley** and **John Bull** for giving up their time and expertise to St. Mary's PTA!

We are busy planning our events for the 2019-20 academic year at the moment so do look out on the MVP Facebook page for future fun events for the village to come together and enjoy!

## Mortimer West End Produce Show

A great afternoon was had by all at the annual Mortimer West End Show on Saturday 24th August. The sun was out and there was a real buzz in the air as people admired all the hard work of the entrants - about 450 different entries in all - with art, photography, handicrafts, vegetables, fruit and flowers, wine and baking all on display, as well as the beautiful work of local children.



Although, there's a strong hardy group of perennial entrants that keeps this show alive, it's great to welcome new people to join in the fun and camaraderie. The 'old masters' in the fruit and veg marquee chatted with newbies to pass on tips on how to trim and tie your onions or clean your beetroot and the judges in the domestic categories area gave very thorough and detailed comments for better rise, texture or set!

Why don't you or your children enter next year? Its great fun for al. You don't have to be competitive to enter, just enjoy the process of making, growing or producing and then admiring what you and others have created along with tea and cake of course!

Put the date in the diary now - Bank Holiday **Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> August 2020**





## Together In Mission



### 6th Anniversary of serving in the community

Thirty-four clients and volunteers joined our celebrations at the Burghfield Methodist Church Hall. Many of the volunteers shared what TiM Friends means to them and there were many tributes from their clients.

For details about our service or becoming a volunteer, please contact  
Bev.French, TiM Friends Coordinator 07748 686615 [bevrench6@gmail.com](mailto:bevrench6@gmail.com)



at the Burghfield Common Methodist Church Hall  
Mondays 09:00-14:00 (except Bank Holidays) &  
Wednesdays 09:00-12:00

☆☆☆☆☆ Five star hygiene rating retained.

A snap inspection by Environmental Health gave us a top score again. Thanks to our fantastic volunteers for keeping such high standards. Try the delicious Shmoo milk drinks - strawberry, banana and chocolate - only £1.50.

Alex Lines, Manager Café B

[cafeb@togetherinmission.org.uk](mailto:cafeb@togetherinmission.org.uk) [www.facebook.com/CommunityCafeB/](https://www.facebook.com/CommunityCafeB/)



We said farewell to our wonderful coordinator, Libby, in the summer, so we are now in the process of recruiting her successor ... but our dedicated team of volunteers continue weekly patrols at the Willink.

**Burghfield and Area School Pastors**

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

## South Berks Concert Band

Band members are busy practising for Mortimer's Christmas Concert on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December in St. John's Church - the only place large enough to take 45+ players and still have room for an audience.

We are still finalising the programme, but pieces will include Gershwin's Strike up the Band and highlights from the popular children's film, Frozen. For those of you who love musicals, you'll be delighted to hear selections from Miss Saigon and Oliver! There will be Leroy Anderson's Christmas Festival and other seasonal favourites, a selection of music written specifically for concert bands and, of course, a chance for you to join in with a carol or two. There will be hot drinks and cakes waiting for you in the interval.

Do you know of anyone who would love to experience a large band performing right here in the village? Are there any music-loving villagers who are unable to come along because of transport difficulties and are there any volunteers who could help out with transport to/ from the event? Please get in contact

with your ideas and suggestions to help us make this event easier for all villagers to enjoy.

There will also be the chance to hear members of the band playing at the Carols Around the Tree service on the Fairground on Saturday 21st December.

If you've never heard South Berks Concert Band - Mortimer's very own village band - perform before, you've missed a treat. And that's exactly what is in store for all local music lovers this December. See you there!

Contact us via email at [sbcb\\_music@yahoo.com](mailto:sbcb_music@yahoo.com), message us on Facebook [@SouthBerksConcertBand](https://www.facebook.com/SouthBerksConcertBand), or telephone Ray on 07785311856.



## Burghfield Camera Club

We have started our new 2019/2020 programme of activities.

How were your summer photos? If you wish they had been better, or, if they were fantastic, perhaps you might consider joining us to learn more or spread your expertise!

We are a small very friendly group who usually meet on Thursday evenings in St. Oswald's Church Hall at 7:30 pm. Our skills range for beginner to accomplished photographer - everyone is welcome.

Our activity programme can be found on [www.burghfieldcameraclub.co.uk](http://www.burghfieldcameraclub.co.uk) It normally consists of external speakers, internal competitions, workshops, visits and social events.

Come along and meet us, you may be just the person we're looking for!

## Other News

### Connecting Communities in Berkshire

Would you like to volunteer with a charity to help empower rural communities in Berkshire?

Local charity Connecting Communities in Berkshire (CCB) is seeking new Trustees to help us continue our work of enhancing, empowering and strengthening rural communities in Berkshire. Please e-mail [admin@ccberks.org.uk](mailto:admin@ccberks.org.uk) or to find out more about us and our current projects please visit our website: [www.ccberks.org.uk](http://www.ccberks.org.uk). To make an appointment for an informal conversation with our Chief Officer Tim please call us on 01189612000.

## Singing for the Brain

Put your musical talents to good use and volunteer for Alzheimer's Society. Alzheimer's Society runs a Singing for the Brain group between 1:30pm and 3:00pm at Burghfield Common Methodist Church Hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. It offers people affected by dementia the opportunity to socialise and to take part in a good old-fashioned sing-song within a safe and supportive environment.

We urgently need a new volunteer who would be happy to lead the group as our current volunteer will shortly be moving on. This would involve putting together a singing programme to meet the needs and tastes of those who attend and then leading the singing on the day.

If you can sing well and ideally play an instrument too, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Jane Penton on 07540 921 221 or email [jane.penton@alzheimers.org.uk](mailto:jane.penton@alzheimers.org.uk) Thank you!

## MVP Affiliates

There are many benefits to being an MVP affiliate as all these groups can tell you. If you are part of a local group and would like to find out if your group could benefit, or if you have ideas about starting a new group, then contact Julie Carter on [juliekcarter77@gmail.com](mailto:juliekcarter77@gmail.com) or check out the Affiliate section on the website: [www.mortimervillage.org.uk/Affiliate-Support](http://www.mortimervillage.org.uk/Affiliate-Support)

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	0118 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:thehurstsingers@gmail.com">thehurstsingers@gmail.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:jill.bradberry@icloud.com">jill.bradberry@icloud.com</a>
Mortimer Bell Ringers	933 2200	<a href="mailto:mortimerbellringers@gmail.com">mortimerbellringers@gmail.com</a>
Mortimer Cricket Club		<a href="mailto:adrsmith@gmail.com">adrsmith@gmail.com</a>
Mortimer Dramatic Society	0778 533 3321	<a href="mailto:info@mortimer-dramatic.org">info@mortimer-dramatic.org</a>
Mortimer FC	07786 631027	<a href="mailto:mortimerfootballclub@gmail.com">mortimerfootballclub@gmail.com</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 John's PAF	933 2242	<a href="mailto:office@msj.w-berks.sch.uk">office@msj.w-berks.sch.uk</a> <a href="mailto:gemmaemelza@gmail.com">gemmaemelza@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:gemmaemelza@gmail.com">gemmaemelza@gmail.com</a>
Mortimer Surgery Patients Participation Group	983 2377	<a href="mailto:grobinsn.email@btinternet.com">grobinsn.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:danusia@morsley.me.uk">danusia@morsley.me.uk</a>
Mortimer West End Produce Show		<a href="mailto:ngmunson@yahoo.com">ngmunson@yahoo.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:iclaredowney@gmail.com">iclaredowney@gmail.com</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 9332082	<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>



## **MVP Contact Details**

Chairman	Doug Overett	<a href="mailto:doug.overett@gmail.com">doug.overett@gmail.com</a>	933 3285
Vice Chairman	John Bull	<a href="mailto:spectrumpm@btinternet.com">spectrumpm@btinternet.com</a>	
Secretary	John Hannawin	<a href="mailto:john@i-next.co.uk">john@i-next.co.uk</a>	933 2577
Treasurer	Ali Richardson	<a href="mailto:alison.richardson1964@gmail.com">alison.richardson1964@gmail.com</a>	
Affiliates Sec.	Julie Carter	<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 Library. 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 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 on the website*

MVP thanks **Sansome & George** for continuing to help the village and MVP by contributing half of the production cost of this newsletter.



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

Proud to be supporting our local community  
by sponsoring the MVP newsletter

Contact our friendly advisors for all your property market needs

0118 933 1773

[mortimer@sansomeandgeorge.co.uk](mailto:mortimer@sansomeandgeorge.co.uk)

1 Aborn Parade, 45 West End Road, RG7 3TQ