

Mortimer Village Partnership

Newsletter

February 2020



Mortimer Village Partnership
Enriching Village Life

*All this and more available on
our website*

www.mortimervillage.org.uk



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

Busy 2020 ahead in Mortimer - get your diaries ready

The January MVP Newsletter is always useful, since we try to give details of upcoming events organised by MVP and also our Affiliates. It gives people the chance to put some early marks in the new diary they had for Christmas (or more likely in your phone).

Inside this edition you will see early details about a range of events and activities from the annual "Village Spring Clean" through to next December's pantomime..... but it always amazes me the number of people who tell me after an event... "we didn't know it was on".

Short of asking us to telephone every household in the village, which really is not practical, the best way to keep up to date with what is going on in our village is to read the newsletter, check the village notice boards, keep an eye on our Facebook page facebook.com/groups/mortimervillagepartnership and of course our website mortimervillage.org.uk (which has a very good calendar that all organisations can add to).

Which brings me nicely round to making sure you put May 8th and 9th in your diary for the VE Day 75th Anniversary Commemoration and Celebration. This year instead of the usual Fun Day in July, the MVP along with MML and almost every organisation and school in Mortimer & Burghfield are getting behind the Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council event for what will be a very exciting weekend..... so, keep an eye on Facebook, Websites and notice boards for more information.

Doug Overett
Chairman - MVP

75th Anniversary of VE Day

Friday 8th May 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day, the day the guns fell silent at the end of the second World War in Europe. Years of death and destruction had come to an end and millions of people took to the streets to mourn their loved ones, celebrate peace and hope for the future.

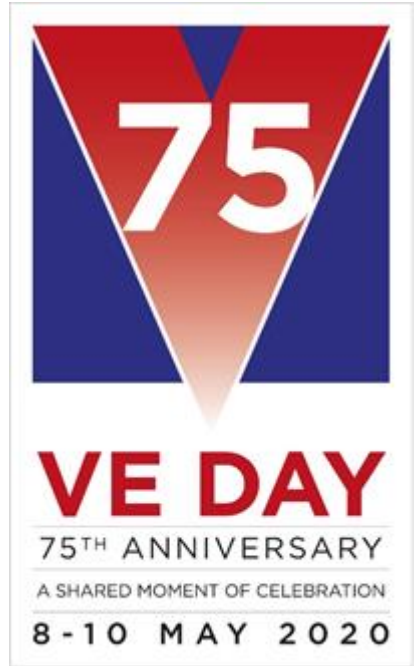
The Parish Council, supported by local business, groups and volunteers is organising a packed and varied two-day activity programme on **Bank Holiday Friday 8th and Saturday 9th May**. The Friday focusses on remembering and reflecting on the sacrifice, courage and determination of the people, from all walks of life, who saw us through this dark and terrifying period. Saturday celebrates the arrival of peace in Europe, as the country did 75 years ago.

Attractions include a wartime vehicle display, a float procession from Burghfield to Mortimer and a free-entry Fairground celebration, with stalls, maypole and live music. Local groups or businesses wishing to parade a (free) float (lorry) or those with photographs or memorabilia suitable for sharing online, should contact the parish council now (email: admin@stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk or phone: 0118 9331955). Save the date and check the parish council website, MVP Facebook and Village Eye magazine for updates on this not-to-be-missed weekend.

More from MVP

2020 MVP AGM

After last year's 10th Birthday party and cake, this year's the AGM will a little quieter but as with our monthly meetings everyone is most welcome to attend to find out what the MVP is up to! The AGM for 2020 is on the 11th March at 7:00pm prior to the normal monthly MVP meeting at the Library. We hope to see some new faces join us.



Spring Clean - Saturday 21st March

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.



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* link on the MVP website.

Scarecrow Trails 10th Anniversary

The Autumn Half Term saw another successful scarecrow trail, with people braving the elements to see the characters based around the theme of “Anything Goes”. The scarecrows were creative as ever and for those of you who may have missed the final results, the winners of the Scarecrow Trail prizes as voted for by the trail followers are as follows:

Children’s Favourites

- 1st - Simba by the Webster Family
- 2nd - Lego Batman by McColls
- 3rd - Peter Rabbit by the Vinall Family

Adults Favourites

- 1st - Harry Potter and Friends by the Lambourne Family
- 2nd - Freddie Mercury by Clean & Easy Window Cleaning
- 3rd - Rugby World Cup by the Royal British Legion

Funniest

- 1st - First Man on The Moon? By the Hannawin Family
- 2nd - Minions by the Furey Family
- 3rd - 8 years recycled parts by The Wallers



The MVP Chair’s Honorary Award deservedly went to “Boudica” and the Trail Competition Prize was won by Jacob Gale - the correct answer being Maleficent.

The final word, however, goes to those without whom this event would not happen: the scarecrow makers; Blue Array Ltd; Budgens; Dads Shop; Spratley's; Mortimer Library; pictureseverywhere.com; The Baobab, the village pubs and cafe and the trail followers. Thank you one and all.

Look out for details of Mortimer Scarecrow 2020!

Christmas in January.

We all know December is packed with Christmas events, so this year MVP lunch club decided to hold a post-Christmas party in January. 44 people sat down for a lovely lunch provided by Julia Mills and her son Ben. Sian Nelson asked our community via the *BuyNothingMortimer* Facebook group for donations both for a raffle and for gifts for our lunch guests. We were delighted to find that the people of this community rose to the occasion with generous offerings for everyone and a brilliant raffle too.

Music was once more provided by Brian Bicknell which got us singing to familiar tunes and even some dancing !

Our huge thanks must go to everyone who supports our lunch club from the volunteers who donate their time twice a month, to the businesses who donate both food and services and to everyone who gives a little in appreciation of our older community members. Happy New Year everyone.

MVP Pantomime

Our December visiting Panto was again a great success.....what wasn't to enjoy with 6ft tall Mummy & Daddy bears singing and dancing on stage. The expected rendition of Baby Shark was great fun with everyone singing and joining in the actions, what did it have to do with Goldilocks? Who cares!

"We had a brilliant time at our first MVP panto. Well done to Gary Starr performances and MVP"

"What a fantastic performance my grandson really enjoyed it great value for money and made more magical by the lovely relaxed atmosphere. Extra bonus seeing the Burghfield Santa's sing. This is what makes Mortimer so special thank you MVP"

And date for the diary, **December 12th 2020** will see **SANTA AND THE MISCHIEVOUS ELF'S POLAR ADVENTURE** coming to Mortimer.

Carol Concert

Everyone who comes agrees this is the perfect way to get into the Christmas spirit and this year it was the best one yet. Every time you see the Royal Albert Hall lit up for Christmas it takes your breath away. Having a hearty singalong to your favourite carols along with the sweet vocals from the National Youth Choir and the Royal Choral Society and superb music from The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra puts everyone fairly and squarely in the Christmas Spirit. Tickets are already being sold for 2020 so anyone on the mailing list can expect details very soon. Tickets sell very quickly so take a leap of faith and book early for Christmas! Contact Rebecca on mvptheatretrips@gmail.com if you would like to join the mailing list for this and all the other trips planned for this year.

MVP Affiliate News

Mortimer Pre-School



Our Pre-School has had an OUTSTANDING term. The children have been amazingly busy. You may have seen some of their work in the village. The children made their own scarecrow for the Mortimer Scarecrow trail - it was the Hungry Caterpillar. They had a lot of fun making it together using different painting techniques. They also told the story themselves through yoga and dance as well as trying all the fruits the caterpillar ate. Did you also see the lovely display the children made for Remembrance Day? Not forgetting the lovely Christmas show all our Pre-Schoolers took part in! The children invited their family and friends to come and watch and they showcased their learnings on stage in front of a filled hall. Well done all!

If you've ever been lucky enough to meet some of our staff, you'll know what a lovely, experienced and OUTSTANDING team they are. We may be a little biased, but our recent OFSTED inspection this term saw us receive another OUTSTANDING grade. Needless to say, we're very proud of our staff, our children and our Committee.

Talking of our Pre-School parents and carers - they have also been very busy. They hosted the Proteous Puppet Theatre, who did a magical performance called "A Christmas Knight" for us in December. All proceeds raised have gone to dance and PE lessons for the Pre-School children. Our parents and carers also supported Loddon Valley Lions on their Father Christmas float which came through the village on the 13th December.

If you're interested in finding out more about what we do please contact admissions@mortimerpreschool.org.uk. We'd love to hear from you.

Burghfield Camera Club

The 2019 session was very successful, including a fun social evening just before Xmas. Our 2020 programme of activities will have started by the time you read this!

The season started with club members displaying and discussing some of their own images, followed by a themed competition using only a 50mm lens, the equivalent to how the human eye sees a view

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 from beginner to accomplished photographer - everyone is welcome. Our meetings are a mix of externally speakers, internal competitions, workshops, visits and social events. Full details of our activities can be found at www.burghfieldcameraclub.co.uk Come along and meet us, you may be just the person we're looking for!



Mortimer Craft Club - Project Linus

There was an exhibition at the National Needle work archive Greenham Common for Project Linus with 34 single sized quilts and 8 premature baby quilts. It was truly inspirational with so many lovely colours and fine work.

Up to October this year the coordinator for Berkshire area has received approximately 433 Quilts, of which Mortimer Crafters made 22 large, 20 Christmas ones for Buscot Ward at Royal Berks Hospital for babies born over Christmas and 20 special Christmas stockings! Over all the UK, Project Linus has received 27,650 quilts!

So, thank you to the ladies of the Mortimer Craft Club who made the quilts and stockings and to all the people who donate fabric so we can carry on.

Crafters meets on 1st and 3rd Fridays of each month from 1:30 to 3:30pm at Mortimer Methodist Hall. Come along and play board games, take part in craft activities or just for a chat. Tea/coffee & biscuits provided!

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

We held our annual Christmas Fair on Saturday 7 December and it was a fun-filled festive afternoon. Thanks to everyone from the village who visited on the day and bought a glass of mulled wine or a raffle ticket we raised £1,200 for the school! Thank you also to the team of volunteers who helped to run this event, MVP for the loan of Santa's Grotto and all the local businesses who donated prizes for the raffle and bottle tombola - your continued support of our school is much appreciated.

May Fair 2020, 11am - 2pm on Saturday 16th May - Come and join us at St John's Infant school for a fab and fun family day out in the Spring sunshine (fingers crossed!). There are some great activities for the children planned including face painting, lots of pocket money games as well as arts and craft activities. A Pimms bar, BBQ, cafe and entertainment should keep the grownups happy too along with our fabulous cake sale stall - always guaranteed to satisfy a sweet tooth. Adult entry £1, children free.

Save the Children - Kennet Branch

A very happy new year to all Mortimer residents from Save the Children Kennet Branch. We thank everyone in Mortimer for their support in 2019.

We have four check-out Jumble Sales coming up in 2020. The dates for your diary are **8th February, 25th April, 12th September and 14th November**. The concept is simple all jumble items are 40p or 3 for a pound and you pay on the way out, entry is 20p. All sales start at 10:30am and are at St. John's Hall, West End Road. We really welcome your jumble donations outside the hall on the mornings of the sales from 9am. We accept all items, especially clothes,



**Save the
Children**
100 YEARS

but regret we cannot take items with a plug. The sales are a great way to donate and rehome items you no longer need so have a clear out or come and grab a bargain.

Our Midsummer Music event will return in summer 2020. For those who haven't been before it's an evening of live music and entertainment in a beautiful garden setting in Burghfield Village. Please see MVP website and calendar later in the year for full details, or search Save the Children Kennet Branch on Facebook for our events page.

1st Burghfield & Sulhamstead Scouts

For most of us, the wintery evenings mean we want to curl up in front of a fire, and stay indoors, but not the scouts we like challenge and adventure all year round!

Highlights from the last few months and what's up and coming include:



Adventure

- Loads of fun at Reading Climbing wall
- Camp fire songs and marshmallows, shelter building and night hiking!
- Mince pie hike for all the family
- Scouts WINGS Scout Camp planned for 2020, an International Camp based in Windsor Great Park

Community

- A fabulous attendance at Burghfield village Remembrance Parade
- Christmas carol services for the Beavers
- Working with Englefield Estate to do some 'moonlit' tree planting, 150 saplings in one evening!
- Mortimer Bonfire night - Providing marquees and hot refreshments alongside Baden Powell Scouts
- Scouts Got Talent, with Eagle scouts raising over £400 for Thames Valley Air Ambulance
- Clean up at SUN School
- Recycling initiatives at our HQ

Learning & Discovery

- Debating evenings, disability awareness
- Green cross code and dinosaur evenings & puppet shows for our younger members

Scouts is open to boys and girls aged 6-24 years, to find out more about our group, based in Burghfield Common (just across from Tesco Express) go to www.1stbands.org and get involved today.

Burghfield And Mortimer Volunteer Bureau

Burghfield and Mortimer Volunteer Bureau continues to offer support to the two communities in the form of transport solutions for people experiencing difficulty attending medical, dental or optician appointments.

Here are some facts and figures taken from January to October 2019:

Mileage covered - 10,938

No. of journeys taken - 708

To Thatcham Hospital - 92

To Basingstoke Hospital - 26

To RBH - 175

To Mortimer Surgery - 242

To Day centre - 60

To other appointments - 111

Many thanks again to all our dedicated drivers who give up their time and use of their cars freely and willingly. Feedback from users of the service is always hugely positive.

As always we are in need of still more drivers, if only for one drive a week, it all helps, so if you want to get involved please contact us:

Burghfield and Mortimer Volunteer Bureau bureauvolunteer@gmail.com

Office phone - 01189831814 (open 9:30 to 11:30am Mon-Fri)

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 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 <http://thehurstsingers.org>

Belle Canto

Belle Canto Trio would like to thank all the businesses who welcomed us into their premises on Friday 13th December and all their very generous patrons. Friday 13th may be unlucky for some, but it certainly wasn't for us. Our singing of Christmas carols and songs raised £284 for the Berkshire Cancer Centre.

So thank you to Mortimer Café, The Baobab, Budgens, McColl's, The Horse and Groom, The Victoria Arms, The Cinnamon Tree, The Turners Arms and the Calleva Arms in Silchester.

We now turn our minds to Valentine's Day, and invite you to an evening of fun, food and romance at Shinfield St Mary's (RG2 9BY). Not only will we serenade you with some sumptuous harmonies, but we will also lead you in some fun sing-alongs. A delicious supper is included in the ticket price of £12.50. Tickets must be purchased in advance (for catering purposes) from 0118-988-2120. And a bar and raffle will also be provided.

You can find out all about us at www.bellecanto.uk and [@bellecantotrio](https://www.facebook.com/bellecantotrio) on Facebook. We look forward to seeing you.



Mortimer Dramatic Society

Mortimer Dramatic Society is 70 years old this year. While things may have changed since we staged our first production back in 1950, we know that putting on a play is still as much fun now as it was back then. That's why we are still here.



Mortimer Dramatic Society

In May (Friday & Saturday 22nd, 23rd + 29th 30th) we will stage a new comedy, "West Moon Street" by Rob Urbinati; directed by Tom Shorrock. Lord Arthur is engaged to be married. However, a mysterious palm reader predicts that he will commit a murder. Being a proper English gentleman, Arthur believes it is his duty to get this killing business over with before he marries. An hilarious series of mishaps ensues as he sets about finding a victim.

In October we are reprising our very first production "Painted Sparrows"; Directed by Judy Winter. Set in the 1920s in a Sussex farmhouse, amongst family, staff and B&B guests, a "Cockney Sparrow" arrives with a broken-down motorbike. But is he what he seems?"

We would love you to come and celebrate our platinum anniversary with us and experience our high-quality live theatre right here in St. John's Hall at the heart of the village.



Mortimer Walking Group: West Berkshire Walking for Health

The Walking for Health group enjoyed a Christmas walk from the Fox and Hounds near Theale on 17th December 2019 followed by an excellent Christmas lunch at the pub.



The Mortimer group run three walks on Tuesday mornings, led by trained and experienced walk leaders, starting from the Community Centre car park opposite the Horse and Groom. The three walks are as follows: the long walk is a faster paced walk of approximately 4½ -5 miles leaving at 9.45am; the regular walk is approximately 3-3¼ miles leaving at 10am; and the short walk is slower paced for about 1¾ -2 miles, leaving at 10:30am. The short walk is designed for people who are usually inactive but would like to start walking, especially those returning from illness or injury. The walks are very well attended with usually 50-80 walkers spread between the three walks. All finish at about 11:30 am with coffee in the Horse and Groom where all new walkers are made welcome.

Monday evening walks (3½ miles / 1½ hours) take place from the end of April to the end of September and times may vary at the beginning and end of the season as the light dictates - check MPV website for details.

All walks are free of charge, if you are interested, just come along about 15 minutes before the walk starts and introduce yourself to one of the walk leaders, identified by their fluorescent yellow jackets.

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

Together In Mission

We are once more grateful to the **Stratfield Mortimer Relief in Need Charity** for their very generous grant of £5,000. Some of this will go towards supporting the work of TiM Friends befriending service where our volunteers regularly visit about 50 older folk in Mortimer and Burghfield area. The other part of the grant will be used for our School Pastors service at the Willink School, where a considerable number of students come from Mortimer.

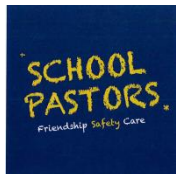


Despite the wet weather there was a good turnout to the **10th annual Carol Singing**. The Christmas tree with lights and star, thanks to SMPC, remained outside whilst we went into the warm and dry Community Centre! The South Berks Concert Band and some local musicians provided the music, the singing was introduced by the Rev Ruth Midcalf and featured a carol by The Hurst Singers. Fr Paul Chaplin closed with a blessing, before the mulled wine.

Café B

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

Contact: Alex Lines, Manager Café
Bcafeb@togetherinmission.org.uk
www.facebook.com/CommunityCafeB/



Offering friendship and a listening ear, inclusively, to young people at the Willing School.

Contact: Lynn Everett, Coordinator for School Pastors,
07778 911182.

schoolpastors@togetherinmission.org.uk
www.facebook.com/TiMSchoolPastors
www.twitter.com/TiM_Pastors

Mortimer 2012 WI

A happy new year to you all from Mortimer 2012 Women's Institute. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month, at 7:30pm, in the Mortimer Community Centre and invite ladies from Mortimer and the surrounding areas to come along and give us a try for up to three meetings with no obligation to join.



Every year we have at least two 'open' meetings where we invite any Mortimer resident to come along and enjoy our speaker these are highlighted below.

Mortimer 2012 W.I. 2020 Speakers Program: March – July

4th March: Annual Meeting - Marjorie McClure - History of the WI (part 2)

1st April: Tilly Treats - Chocolate Making

6th May: Resolution Meeting

3rd June: Sophie Fryer - Hats off to Millinery. Sophie will give a talk about couture millinery, the difference between mass produced and couture and the process of making hats.

1st July: OPEN MEETING Simon Jones - My Antiques Roadshow. Simon is MD at Jones & Jacob Fine Art and Auctioneers based in Watlington, he will discuss and offer valuations on antiques members bring along

To contact Mortimer 2012 W.I. email mortimer2012wi@berkshirewi.co.uk

Mortimer St. Mary's Junior School PTA

In the Autumn term the PTA have been busy organizing some fun events for the children to enjoy whilst raising money for their school including disco's and a School Bake Off. The Bake Off involved children donning their aprons to make home made goods to bring into school for judgement; cakes were then sold off at the end of the school day to hungry parents and siblings. We would like to extend a massive thanks to the lovely ladies at Mortimer Women's Institute who very kindly came to taste and judge the children's entry to decide 'star baker' for each category as well as runners up. The school raised over £260 so thank you to everyone involved.

In February we will be holding a fantastic and fun event at the Willink School for the kids to participate in - **Mortimer's Got Talent** - where the children will be invited to show case their talent from musicians to magicians, gymnasts to comedians, dancers to poets and everything in between we look forward to seeing what they come up with this year!

SAVE the DATE - **Saturday 4th July** - Sports Run and Community Bar/BBQ - promises to be a fit, fab and fun community event - further details to follow soon on MVP Facebook page.

Mortimer Benefice

Welcome. Whether you've just moved to the area or have lived here all your life, we hope that our brief 'Focus Notes' - which you should be able to find on the website or parishes notices - will help to answer some frequently asked questions and help you find out more about our Parish Churches.

Whoever you are, wherever you are from, whatever your needs, this place and these people belong to you. People have gathered for many centuries in these Parishes to pray and to serve the community. Our Parishes are places where space will be made for you and where you can be secure and safe, where you will be able to grow and feel sustained. They are places where you can bring your thanksgivings, your stresses, your fears and your hurts and find that they are not only healed but are valued as part of you.

Details of upcoming services and events can be found at www.mortimerbenefice.co.uk

CONTACT DETAILS

Vicar: The Rev Paul Chaplin, The Vicarage,
10 The Avenue, Mortimer. RG7 3QY. 01189 331718
Assistant Priests: The Rev Alan Barnes, The Rev Derek Spears
Administrator: Mrs Sara Spratt
Vergers: Mrs Joan Halfacree, Mrs Lorna Jones,
Mrs Irene Esslemont, Mrs Rebecca Smith

THE BENEFICE OFFICE, ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, MORTIMER, BERKSHIRE. RG7 3SY
E MAIL: ADMIN@MORTIMERBENEFICE.CO.UK TEL: 0118 9333704.

Made in Mortimer



The Made in Mortimer group finished on a high last year! Thank you to all those who visited our Christmas market at St John's hall on 6 December - it was a lovely atmosphere and so wonderful to have so many people come along and support us. We even ran out of mulled wine and had to make an emergency dash out to stock up on more!

We are always happy to welcome new members to the group - if you make your own items/arts/crafts/foods/ drinks and are local to Mortimer village please contact us to find out more. We meet on a monthly basis in the village, usually at 8pm on the second Thursday of the month.

Visitors to Mortimer library may now be familiar with our display cabinet - this is being updated on a monthly basis to display as many of the fantastic designs and creations made by the group as possible. Many thanks to librarian Sean Hynes for his continued support with this.

Our free, drop in craft sessions continue to 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! There will also be additional events during the Easter and Summer holidays.

To join any of our events and keep updated on our activities, please follow our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/MadeinMortimer. For any queries please contact the Chairman, Emma Vidal, on 0118 933 1623.

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. Please get in touch or find us on Facebook (search Mortimer soccer school)



In addition, we 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 men's teams (Saturday firsts/reserves and Sundays) play at the field, and we have a new ladies team playing Sunday afternoons. We have a tea bar/licensed 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 Gardening Club

The Mortimer Gardening Club meets most months on the fourth Wednesday in the Community Centre at 7:30pm.

These are upcoming events and a full list of the activities and speakers can be found on the MVP website

26th Feb	30 Years Conservation at Theale Gravel Pits	Brian Uttley
25th March	Plastic Free Mortimer	Andrea Kim Roach
22nd April	Fruit Trees in a British Orchard	Roger Hiron
27th May	Wildlife in my Garden	Malcolm Brownsword

We welcome new members and guests. Membership is £10 each year plus an entry fee to cover the speakers fee, usually £1 or £2. We have a raffle, with donated prizes, as well as tea/coffee and biscuits.

We look forward to seeing and welcoming new members and guests. Please just come along to one of the meetings where you will be most welcomed.

Mortimer Methodist Church

Spring Ceilidh

Saturday 21st March from 7pm
Festival Caller, Mike Courthold
Tickets £17 (including supper catered by The Hatch Gate)
Available from Chris Meakin 0118 933 2782

The 1st WLTD0 session took place at Mortimer Methodist Church on 11th January 2020, and all the dads and children had a great morning.



- Delicious breakfast bacon and egg roll with tea, coffee, and snacks for the children.
- A busy craft table, with the youngsters doing hand paintings.
- Ride-on and play toys & a soft play area for tots.

The sessions, which are for children aged 0-7 years, take place from 9:30 to 11:30am on the 2nd Saturday of each month, i.e. 8th February 14th March, 11th April, 9th May, 13th June etc. The cost is £4/family.

Come and join us and have fun! *Contact Clive Williams:*

klivewilliams@aol.com or 07437 847021

 <https://fb.me/WLTDOMB>

MWE Produce Show

A reminder that the date for the 2020 Mortimer West End Produce show is Saturday 29th August 2020.

So now is the time to start planning your entries; vegetables, flowers, arts,

crafts and domestic. This year special categories are, in the wine class, Nettle Wine and in the photography class 'Photo of Winter'. Let's hope for some more seasonal and picturesque frosty, sunny days and less mud soon!

Mortimer West End Village Hall

Remember to put a note in your diary about these ever-popular events:

WOODLAND WALK AND BARBECUE

Sunday 12th July. Start your walk any time between 11:00 am & 1:00 pm

MORTIMER WEST END PRODUCE SHOW

August Bank Holiday Saturday 29th August. Viewing 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

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 wendygill44@yahoo.co.uk
CALLEVA WI	2nd Tuesday of the month 7:30 pm Contact Carole Wood on 0118 9700714 or email carolewood@live.co.uk
Dog Training	All remaining Tuesdays 7:00pm starting 18 th Feb Contact Amy Laker at amys.gdt@hotmail.com
Zumba	Thursdays 5:30 pm and 6:30 pm Contact Ionie Shaw at lonie_shaw@outlook.com
YOGA	Fridays 10:30 am Contact Anna Wilson on 07576 556730

Burghfield & Mortimer Handybus

Our new Minibus is getting out and about around the villages, local shops and Social Clubs. Passenger numbers are continuing to grow (800 passenger journeys in the last three months). Over the summer we have been on seaside trips, cinema trips and garden centres visits as well as our usual regular shopping trips. We often have empty seats on our Sainsbury's shopping trips to Calcot and Tadley and we can always take more passengers on our Tuesday trips to Reading or Newbury. In addition, we are making use of the old West Berkshire Red Handybus for trips requiring wheelchair access.

If you would like to take advantage of our services please contact us, as below, for further information.



VOLUNTEERS : We need you!

Providing this valuable community service is dependent on volunteers, and we are always in need of more volunteers to meet the growing demand. With two minibuses available we could be making more trips and outings for our less able community members if we could recruit more volunteer drivers.

We also need more volunteer escorts, who accompany the driver on each of our trips and assist with the passengers.

Volunteers need no special skills, just a friendly caring outlook with a little time to spare. If you would like to join a small band of friendly volunteers, then we would like to hear from you. You are welcome to come on one of our regular shopping trips to give it a try. You might be surprised how enjoyable and satisfying it can be. Contact details: Tel. 0118 983 6611

thehandybus@gmail.com

www.thehandybus.org

Mortimer Tennis Club



Despite some very blustery weather over the winter season members have been out playing tennis. The new gate system, once it settled in, has made it much easier to get on court and we hope that non-members are finding it the same. Over the summer, an additional session on a Monday morning that was free to play, courtesy of the Parish Council, proved very popular. The club has continued to hire the courts through the

winter and with enough regularly playing it is easy for people to just turn up and enjoy a game without needing to bring a partner. We continue to play between 10 and 11am. The sessions are normally arranged via email and the cost shared by those that turn up to play. If anyone wants to join just come and say hello.

Our league team players have enjoyed some excellent results this year. Congratulations in particular go to the men's team who won every match this winter season in their division. Promotion is well deserved. The mixed and ladies teams have also played some great games which have taken members as far away as Andover in some very cold and often wet conditions. It proves that tennis doesn't have to be just a summer game as long as you get the clothes right. Although some games are played indoors many continue outside with clubs that have floodlit courts.

The junior sessions on a Tuesday will start again in the Spring. There are two sessions offered starting at 4pm and anyone interested can contact tony@ctc-tennis.co.uk to sign up.

The normal end of season club tournament and picnic was rained off this year with those that turned up opting for the warmth of the Horse and Groom instead. Our Christmas social was well attended with 18 members enjoying a meal at the Hatch Gate in Burghfield.

Mortimer Cricket Club



Mortimer CC had a very successful season in 2019, promoted into Division 2 of the Berkshire Cricket League, as Champions of Division 3, a title which was claimed with 2 matches to be played! Mortimer are looking forward to renewing the local rivalry with Mortimer West End in the coming season.

The Club are now looking forward to the new season, with indoor winter nets starting at the Willink School on 2nd February at 2pm. They will then be held every Sunday for 10 weeks, but times vary, so if you are interested in coming along, please contact the club to check the time! Everyone is welcome and the Club will be holding nets there for kids too.

The Club is working with the Parish Council to improve the playing facilities on The Fairground. This includes the provision of an all-weather practice strip next to the tennis court. While at an early stage, the Club is working to raise around £20,000 to install a practice wicket that will allow the club to extend its coaching practice to the outdoors, no matter what the weather brings!

The Club has invested in practice equipment over the last few years and has its own bowling machine and fielding practice equipment, so that an outdoor practice wicket would mean that the club will be able to offer all-round coaching opportunities.

The Club is organising fund raising events over the next few months, keep an eye out for details in the near future: *Indoor Car-Boot Sale 1st March, Wine Night in March and Mortimer 6s on July 19th*

The Club will have a fund-raising stand at the VE Day 75 Celebrations too. We look forward to seeing you at these events, or at nets starting Feb. 2nd!

South Berks Concert Band

As we arrive at the start of a new decade, South Berks Concert Band is looking forward to being involved in more Mortimer community events, building on those that took place in 2019.

December 2019 was a busy month for the band. It began with Mortimer's Christmas Concert on the 7th December, which received many compliments from the large audience, who enjoyed both listening to the music and consuming warm drinks and other refreshments during the interval. More local musicians were invited to join the band on 21st December to play music for the annual TiM "Carols around the Christmas Tree". As the weather forced the event to move into the Community Hall, for the first time the band had to ask some members to "stand down" as we had too many players for the space available. It was fantastic to be joined by the local musicians and we want to thank them all for their contribution.

In 2020, your next opportunity to hear the band play in Mortimer is at the **Spring Concert at 7pm on 28th March**, again held in St John's Church. The concert will have a transatlantic theme, exploring music of many different styles linked to Britain and America. Posters will be going up around the village shortly, so do keep an eye out for them and put the date in your diary.



As this year is the 75th anniversary of VE Day, we are delighted to confirm we have been invited to join the village celebrations on Saturday 9th May. Look for more details nearer the time!

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 or check out the Affiliate section on the website: www.mortimervillage.org.uk/Affiliate-Support

1st Burghfield & Sulhamstead Scouts & TAO Exp.unit	07867 800335	burghfieldgsl@outlook.com
1st Mortimer B P Scouts	933 2147	neiljohnson@btinternet.com
1st Mortimer Brownies	933 3153	Firstmortimerbrownies@hotmail.co.uk
1st Ufton Nerve Scout Group	07793 196863	cathryn@uftonscouts.com
Alfred Palmer Memorial Field Trust		trustees@alfredpalmermemorialfield.org.uk
B&M Volunteer Drivers	922 3365	bureauvolunteer@gmail.com
Belle Canto Ladies	970 0001	info@bellecanto.uk
Burghfield & Mortimer 1st Responders		thomas.maynard@sca-charity.org.uk
Burghfield & Mortimer Handybus	983 6611	thehandybus@gmail.com
Burghfield Camera Club		davehucker@hotmail.com
Churches Together	983 2115	glynn.lautenbach@stmarysburghfield.org
Crafters Club		d.stroud2010@btinternet.com
Hurst Singers	933 2805 07882 40433	mariatseasons@aol.com
Made in Mortimer	933 1623	wellandemma@hotmail.com

Mortimer 2012 WI		mortimer2012wi@berkshirewi.co.uk
Mortimer Bell Ringers	933 2200	mortimerbellringers@gmail.com
Mortimer Benefice	933 3704	admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk
Mortimer Cricket Club		adrsmith@gmail.com
Mortimer Dramatic Society	0778 5333321	info@mortimer-dramatic.org
Mortimer FC	07786 631027	mortimerfootballclub@gmail.com
Mortimer Gardening Club		pjsmarsh@hotmail.com
Mortimer Life	07446 239239	nickcarter1@gmail.com
Mortimer Local History Group	933 1310	munsonsinmortimer@yahoo.co.uk
Mortimer Methodist Church		daphnecooney@gmail.com
Mortimer Music Live CIC	07779 939495	info@mortimermusiclive.co.uk
Mortimer Pre School Parents Committee		info@mortimerpreschool.org.uk
Mortimer St Johns PAF	933 2242	office@msj.w-berks.sch.uk
Mortimer St Mary's Junior School PTA	933 2491	gemmademelza@gmail.com mortstmarys@gmail.com
Mortimer Surgery Patients Participation Group	983 2377	grobinsn.email@btinternet.com
Mortimer Tennis Club		info@mortimertennisclub.co.uk
Mortimer Toddler Group	933 2620	danusia@morsley.me.uk
Mortimer West End Produce Show		ngmunson@yahoo.com
Mortimer West End Village Hall	07780 688771	mwevh@outlook.com
Save the Children - Kennet Branch B25		iclaredowney@gmail.com
South Berks Concert Band	07759 967474	Southberksconcertband@yahoo.com
Stratfield Mortimer Fairground Charity		gemmademelza@gmail.com
Together in Mission	933 2569	info@togetherinmission.org.uk
West Berkshire Walking 4 Health	07943 840414 9332082	g.bedford414@btinternet.com
Willink PTA		willink.pta@gmail.com



MVP Contact Details

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Treasurer	Ali Richardson	alison.richardson1964@gmail.com	
Affiliates Sec.	Julie Carter	juliekcarter77@gmail.com	933 2265

MVP Committee meetings are at 7:30pm on the 2nd 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

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

Contact our friendly advisors for all your property market needs

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