

Chairman's Report 2020

I'm going to continue with the theme from last year's annual report and confirm that this will be brief

March 2019 seems a long time ago and thinking through the MVP calendar it is a bit like Groundhog Day with very similar activities given the limited resources to do more... however I can reflect on some positives and negatives from the past 12 months.

On the negative side, Last year we sadly said goodbye to the Film club which has been going for almost 10 years under the stewardship of the Blagden's and latterly the Hopkins-Shaws, however as you will recall there was simply too few regular attendees to make this viable. It was also equally sad that in spite of the work we put in to our communication agenda, through things like Newsletter / Face Book / Website / Notice boards etc I still had a couple of comments along the lines of "If I'd known about it I might have come along...".

You will also recall we took a break from the Fun Day and St Marys filled the void. I think it's fair to say it was "average" as village events go, but credit to the team who did their best. Upon reflection it was clear that they expected more help from the MVP to steer them and what efforts were made we not effective enough.

But on the positive side, last year again saw visits from Farnham Maltings and Gary Starr Pantos with very successful productions.

In the last 18 months or so we have welcomed a number of new people to the MVP and now great to see them getting involved with running some of the existing activities, John Suter with the Spring Clean (sadly interrupted by a small matter of a dodgy ticker but big thanks to Kathy and her family who stepped in) and the Scarecrow trail that we brought back "in house" and excellently ran by Keeleigh Field. Thanks to both and everyone else who helped. Also to Susan Harrison for volunteering to look after the Newsletter distribution.

This year we had the opportunity to take over the Barn space in Sulhamstead Abbots previously occupied by RNLI, for storing MVP equipment. Whilst still work in progress, this will enable us to reduce our costs by cancelling the rental of the unit in College Piece and also support the Scouts with a small increment to the rent we pay them allowing them to reroof both units. Win Win for everyone.

For the sake of good order, I should record that the MVP is playing a significant role in supporting the SMPC VE 75th Celebrations in May and we have and will reach out to all those who have in the past helped with Fun Days to support this event.

Doug Overett
Chairman
Mortimer Village Partnership