

October 2021 NEWSLETTER



Mortimer Village Partnership
Enriching Village Life

Autumn Brings Falling Leaves, Frosty Days and the Return of MVP Events!

Welcome to the latest MVP Newsletter, where we are delighted to announce Farnham Maltings visiting theatre, Scarecrow Trail, Lunch Club and MVP Pantomime all return to Mortimer this autumn.

The ongoing pandemic has taken its toll on past village events. However, our many associates and affiliated partners are also excited to share their latest news inside this edition of the village newsletter.

These fabulous village events don't plan and organise themselves. Like many associations MVP are urgently appealing for new supporters who can assist our existing small team to help plan and run future activities. Perhaps you are no longer wrapped up in the local PTA or have recently moved to the village and want to meet new people? Volunteering with MVP is the perfect way to give back, meet people or simply get involved. There is no major commitment, everyone does as much or as little as they are able, the important thing is to join in and be part of the village life. If you are interested to helping, please email or call me (details on the back page) and I can tell you what we are all about.

Finally, MVP are delighted to announce that local Financial Services companies Protect & Invest and BatesWilcox, are the new sponsor of the MVP Newsletter. This generous sponsorship covers the full cost of printing and guarantees the future of this newsletter for the next two years. MVP would like to thank the directors of Protect & Invest and BatesWilcox for agreeing to this support; their contact details can be located on the back page of this newsletter.

Doug Overett
Chairman



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

All this and more available here: www.mortimervillage.org.uk

MVP Scarecrow Trail



This year's Scarecrow trail will run **from Saturday 23rd to Sunday 31st October**. We are delighted that over 20 creative makers have taken up the A, B, C, D authors challenge and are busy building their scarecrows for this year's trail.

Maps will be available from local outlets and on-line here:

<https://www.mortimervillage.org.uk/Scarecrow-Trail/SCT2021> the week before the trail. Look out for more details coming soon.

Pantomime - The Mischievous Elf

We just can't wait for the arrival of the Mischievous Elf to the St. John's Hall in Mortimer on **Saturday 11th December** (Oh Yes we can!). After a year away Gary Starr Pantos return to Mortimer with a magical festive story of a young Elf and his adventures in Christmas Land. You can expect all the usual laughs and shouting... It's behind you!!!!

Although I can't promise it, I won't be surprised if there's a Baby Shark in there somewhere too. Put the date in your diary. More info will follow via MVP Facebook page and Website.



Lunch Club

We are delighted to advise that Lunch Club for the senior members of our community has recommenced after its long, long break. With precautions in place such as masks and gloves but otherwise lunch club is the same - an opportunity to meet up with friends face to face once again over a simple lunch. If you would like to join us - either as a lunch guest or a volunteer helping out at the event or transporting our lunch guests from home to the community centre and back, then please do get in touch with Rebecca on 07515775464. We meet from noon until 1.30(ish) on the second and last Thursday of every month.

Affiliates Social

MVP will be holding a social event in the spring of 2022 for our Affiliated Groups where they will have the opportunity to get to know each other, partake in some refreshments and also share some tips and advice. More information on benefits and how to become an affiliate can be found on our website:

<https://www.mortimervillage.org.uk/Affiliate-Support/Benefits> and as usual, the list of all current affiliates is in the last section of this Newsletter.

MVP Affiliate News

Mortimer 2012 WI

Our first meeting after lockdown was our Garden Party, held at the home of one of our members, the weather was kind to us and we enjoyed strawberries and cream and a glass of Cava. Sophie Fryer talked to us about her job as a Milliner and brought along lots of beautiful creations for us to try on. On September 1st we were back in the Community Centre when Tony Weston gave us a talk on Surviving Wedding Photography; it was a very enjoyable evening and well-attended by members who were all so pleased to be together again. Finally, Berkshire Federation managed to hold their Annual Council Meeting which was cancelled last year, although it was on Zoom as the Great Hall at the University was being used as a Vaccination Centre. The main speaker was the Revd Kate Botley who kept us entertained with amusing anecdotes from her life, well worth waiting 18 months for. Hopefully we can continue with our face to face meetings as we have an exciting programme booked into next year.



We welcome all women and invite you to come along and give us a try. We meet on the first Wednesday of every month at the Mortimer Community Centre opposite the Horse and Groom. Our full programme of speakers for the coming months can be found on the MVP noticeboard. To contact us please email mortimer2012wi@berkshirewi.co.uk

Mortimer Tennis Club

With COVID-19 impacting so many aspects of our lives, it was a real boost that outdoor tennis was able to restart quickly once the situation improved. It has been great to see so many people giving tennis a go over the last few months. We remain a friendly group with a very mixed range of ability. We would love to welcome you whether rusty, really good or anywhere in between.

We have welcomed a number of new people to the club. Working from home has meant that playing tennis during the day is an option and our Monday morning 10am session has proved very popular. Without the need to travel to work, the 6pm start for our session on Tuesday and 5pm on Thursday has also seen more members able to come along.

If you are the slightest bit competitive, we are looking for players who would be willing to join our league teams. As a small club, we normally enter one team into each of the Men's, Ladies and Mixed competitions in the Basingstoke and District Tennis League. Sadly, without more ladies wanting to play in the league we won't be

able to run a team this winter but hope it might be possible to enter a ladies' team in the summer league next year.

Our ladies' captain, Gillian Butler is standing down so we are looking for someone who would be willing to take on the role. **Current members or new ladies are welcome to apply.** We don't even mind if you don't want to play in the league yourself. It might even be something to add to your CV! A huge thank you to Gillian for all her work which she has always carried out with a smile, whatever the weather. Our Match Secretary, Simon Orr, is currently acting as non-playing captain of both the men's and mixed teams and would welcome help with one or other of the teams - please do contact us if you are interested.

We are looking to start some **children's tennis sessions** early next season in April. The coaches we use will always be LTA approved and adhere to all the safeguarding standards. Please do let us know you are interested so we can email you final details when they are available.

To find out more about Mortimer Tennis Club take a look at our website:

www.mortimertennisclub.co.uk

Walking for Health

Following the various lockdowns, the Group has been out walking every Tuesday since April, currently starting at 10:00 from the community centre car park opposite the Horse & Groom.

We plan to get back to our pre-Covid rota from October, which means that we will have three walks every Tuesday:

- **09:45** – the longer walk of around five miles taking 1¾ to 2 hours;
- **10:00** – the regular walk of around three and a half miles lasting about 1½ hours.
- **10:30** – a gentle walk lasting an hour or so.

The aim is for all three walks to arrive back at the H&G for coffee (or whatever) at about 11:30.

Each walk is led by trained volunteers and they are designed for people of all abilities, offering you an opportunity to meet new people and explore the beautiful countryside around the village. The walks are extremely popular and regularly attract people from as far afield as Basingstoke,



Newbury, Thatcham, Baughurst and Tilehurst, as well as the closer villages.

It's easy to start walking with us - just turn up 15 minutes before the start and speak to one of the walk leaders (the ones wearing high vis).

Walking for Health overcomes a recognised barrier to becoming more active by providing opportunities for social contact.

It has been shown to improve self-esteem, relieve symptoms of depression, anxiety, and improve mood – we often find that those on a walk have no idea where they have been because they've spent all the time chatting!

Mortimer Cricket Club

If the past 18 months taught us anything, it is to be grateful for the simple pleasures in life – and that has certainly been the case at Mortimer Cricket Club. Last season was decimated by Covid meaning only a handful of friendlies were played, all without traditional teas but with plenty of sanitization for safety reasons.

However, 2021 saw the return of league cricket and a full fixture list in the Berkshire League, along with a sprinkling of Sunday friendlies and midweek matches. The club was boosted by the arrival of several new players whose support we are always grateful for.

It was wonderful to play 'normal' cricket again and Mortimer enjoyed a solid, mid-table finish in Division Two, having been crowned Division Three champions in 2019.

MCC also held its annual six-a-side competition which raised vital funds and, when we were not playing at home, our tenants Shinfield Cricket Club used our ground meaning there was Saturday league cricket in the village throughout the entire season. We also allowed Cardkey to use our ground for Reading Midweek League matches once Mortimer's own involvement came to an end.

In addition, Mortimer staged a hugely successful charity match in June in memory of Kate Cox, the late wife of our long-time player, Craig. It was an emotional occasion and the event was superbly attended. More than £3,000 was raised for Sue Ryder's Duchess of Kent Hospice in Reading where Kate spent the final weeks of her life while being cared for by their wonderful staff.



A testimonial match was also played between Mortimer CC and a Select XI just recently to remember Wayne Wharton, another stalwart of the club who sadly lost his battle with cancer earlier this year. So, as you can see, it's been a very busy summer for all at MCC.

It is worth remembering recognized cricket has been played at the Fairground in Mortimer since 1890 and there are records showing an early form of the sport was first played there many decades before that.

This is why we take great pride in doing all we can to keep the name of Mortimer Cricket Club going and to maintain the ground which, we hope you all agree, has undoubted benefits to the village community as a whole.

Preparations are already underway for next season and we will be holding indoor winter nets in early 2022. We would love to see some new faces so, if you are interested in joining a friendly, village club, please contact us via Facebook or Twitter and we will respond as quickly as possible.

Enormous gratitude must go to all club volunteers who willingly give their time to keep the wheels turning at Mortimer CC and to ensure its continued success.

Last but not least, a massive 'thank you' to our main sponsors – **Mortimer Chocolate Company, The Horse & Groom, Burghfield Spices and Berkshire Hampshire Heatpumps** – for your support and financial backing, without which we could not survive. Here's to another successful season in 2022!

Belle Canto Trio

We did it! "A concert full of joy" was one of the comments we received on our first performance in 18 months after the lifting of Covid restrictions, although we had to overcome some hurdles at very short notice.

Our soprano, Jane Greenshields, left these shores to begin a new life in La Belle France at the end of May. We were sad to see her go, but we feel very fortunate in having found a new member in Helen Marlow – another Mortimer resident. She is a true asset with her general musicianship and her experience in close harmony singing, and did an amazing job in learning the words, harmonies and choreography for thirteen songs in as many weeks. Then, just before the concert, our pianist announced that he had to shield, and so we had to sing to recordings of his accompaniments, instead of treating the audience to Andy's live performance. However, our "Songs of Hope and Joy" were very well received, and we will be performing a selection of them as guest artistes with Reading Male Voice Choir on Saturday 22nd January 2022 at St. Mary's, Purley-on-Thames. Full details will be available nearer the time at www.facebook.com/bellecantotrio and www.bellecanto.uk



But before that there's Christmas! We are very much looking forward to singing a new programme of Christmas songs from **3:00 pm to 4:00 pm at Beech Hill Memorial Hall on Saturday 11th December**. We hope to see you there!

The Oaks Childcare



The Oaks Childcare
Community Interest Company

Back To School! We are delighted to be able to re-open our breakfast and school clubs at the two Mortimer Federation Schools from Monday 6th September. You'll be seeing us around the village in our purple uniforms again.

'Up the hill', you will see us walking the children from breakfast club (Early Little Oaks), which runs from 7.30am at the Mortimer Community Centre, to Mortimer St. John's ready for the start of the school day, and at after school club (Little Oaks) which runs from the school hall until 6pm. 'Down the hill', we are to be found in the dedicated Big Oaks building, and on the playing fields/hall/classrooms depending on numbers and the weather, from 7.30am for breakfast club (Early Big Oaks), and until 6.30pm for after-school club (Big Oaks).

It has been quite a year-and-a-half for all of us with children and involved in childcare and education, and we have missed spending time with the children and our colleagues at work. We have the most wonderful team of staff who love seeing your children having fun.

We send our very best wishes to all the school children in Mortimer as they move to a new year group or start school for the first time.

If you would like to know more about The Oaks, please contact us and take a look at our website or Facebook page. Do also get in touch with us if you enjoy working with children, as part of a team.

office@theoakschildcare.co.uk

www.theoakschildcare.co.uk

facebook/TheOaksChildcare

Mortimer Toy Library

Toy Library at **Mortimer Methodist Church, Saturday 24th October 10-11**

Come and browse safely our full range of toys and games to take and play with at home. Covid risk assessments are undertaken and toys are regularly cleaned. We are set to go!

The Toy Library allows you to borrow large equipment like jumperoos you don't want to keep forever but are really useful when your baby is at that stage. It also helps declutter your house - only have the few toys which your child is actually playing with. In a month's time come to the library and swap them for more. Everyone has been there; your child is loving the toy in the shop, but then doesn't play with it at home. Toy library helps you save money and plastic.

Many toys only cost £1 or £2 to hire. If you want toys for a party at home or in a hall, we can do that. New this year is an annual hire charge of £20 for a year's worth of toy hires. Ideal for people who don't want to find cash each Saturday.

At the moment we have a small team of volunteers and would love extra help. If you are interested in joining the team for two hours on a Saturday morning please contact Janet Sykes to informally discuss the role.

You'll find us at Mortimer Methodist Church, at Toddler group **Tuesdays 10-11am** and **Fourth Saturday of the month 10-11am** Contact Janet Sykes 07733297741

Mortimer West End Village Hall

This year's Woodland Walk and Treasure Trail was a week-long event, instead of the usual day. As a result, we have no idea how many people actually took part, but we have received many positive comments about it, and we sent out several certificates to participants. So we hope that everyone enjoyed it.

The Mortimer West End Produce Show was a great success. So if you want to be the first to find out what you need to be growing, painting, photographing or making, ready to enter next year's show, do check out their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/mweshow

There are photos of both the walk and the show on our own page: www.facebook.com/mwevillagehall

I am afraid that we won't be running our Quiz night this October. With social distancing I don't think we would be able to fit many teams in the hall! Sorry!

The good news is that some of our regulars are now returning to the hall. We have **Pilates** on Monday mornings, **Zumba** on Monday evenings, **Baby Massage** on Tuesday mornings and **Calleva WI** on the second Tuesday evening of each month. Contact us on 0118-970-0001 or mwevh@outlook.com for more info.

And don't forget that the hall is available for hire at very reasonable rates.

South Berks Concert Band



Are you ready to experience live music performances in person again? Then why not join us on **Saturday 16th October in St. Mary's Church in Burghfield**. Come along and celebrate the return of live performances and hear a medley of popular tunes, including "American in Paris", "Beauty and the Beast", "October" and many more. We are looking forward to our first indoor

concert in almost two years, and hope to see many of you there. Covid precautions will be in place. Tickets are £10 and available from Baobab in Mortimer, Weller's Fruit Shop in Burghfield or via SBCB_Music@yahoo.com. Look out for the posters around the village.

Another date for your diary is the **Christmas Concert on 4th December**, also at St. Mary's Church in Burghfield. We will be posting more details on this event nearer the time.

The band was overjoyed to be able to return to rehearsals in late May after a long break. Currently rehearsing in a larger venue in Tadley to allow greater social distancing, we hope to return to Mortimer soon. However our saxophone quintet, Sf Sax, is able to rehearse at Mortimer Methodist Church.

The band had a busy summer performing at outdoor venues: Alton Public Gardens on 17th July, Eastrop Park in Basingstoke on 1st August, Henley's Mill Meadows on 8th August and Brighton Bandstand on 22nd August. It was wonderful to perform for a live audience again, and each event was enjoyed by both band and public alike.

If you wish to find out more, please email us, follow us on Facebook or look at our website: SBCB_Music@yahoo.com, www.facebook.com/SouthBerksConcertBand www.southberksmusic.org.uk

Together In Mission



During the summer our take-away service has been operating from the Burghfield Pavilion. Our wonderful volunteers have done a fantastic job and our customers made it their 'place-to-meet' on Mondays and Wednesdays.

We are excited to be returning to the Burghfield Methodist Church Hall in the coming weeks, so please check noticeboards and our Facebook page for the details.

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

Alex Lines, Manager Café B

cafeb@togetherinmission.org.uk



NOW is the time to think about joining our befriending team and reaching out to your community. The autumn and winter will prove difficult for some to get out and about so if you can spare an hour a week to make a difference in someone's life please get in touch. We were

pleased to celebrate Silver Sunday on 3rd October at the Burghfield Village Hall and more events are being planned. We have a lot of people waiting to be matched with a friend so please get in contact **TODAY!**

Bev French, TiM Friends Coordinator : 07748 686615 : bevrench6@gmail.com

Website and Social Media support needed: We are looking for someone to help for an hour or two a week. Please contact Jon if you can help daviesjon62@gmail.com

We value your support of Together in Mission via 'Local Giving' at:
localgiving.org/charity/tim/

Together in Mission Registered charity number: 1135307
Registered office: 16 Goodwood Close, Burghfield Common, Reading, RG7 3EZ

Burghfield Camera Club



Burghfield Camera Club is putting together an exciting and varied programme for their 2021-2022 season, check out our programme on our website www.burghfieldcameraclub.co.uk

We are a friendly group who meet fortnightly from September to July at St Oswald's Church Hall, Burghfield Common, for talks, workshops,

competitions, outings and discussions. All are very welcome, whatever your photographic interest or skill; if you are a beginner seeking answers or a more advanced photographer who can contribute or guide.

It doesn't matter how you choose to take your images; DSLR, mirrorless, bridge, compact, tablet or mobile, we're interested!

If you'd like to come along, just let our secretary know: burghfieldccsec@gmail.com or look at the programme and turn up on the night. (Some Covid precautions will apply). We look forward to seeing you.



'Ladybird, ladybird' by Mary Auckland ARPS

Mortimer Schools Parents, Teachers & Friends Association

2020-21 was a quieter fundraising year for us, like many, but we did still manage to pull off the fantastic online Duck Race which had terrific support from the local community and which we hope to repeat in spring 2022. We also were very proud of the 'festival' themed parties which Year 2's and 6's had a fabulous time at to mark the end of their school life at Infant & Junior School.

This autumn we ask you to **SAVE THE DATE**, **BOOK THE BABYSITTER**, **DUST OFF THOSE DANCING shoes** as Mortimer Schools PTFA invite you to join us on **Saturday 20th November 2021** to our **'November to Remember'** Dance - an evening of scrumptious food, banging tunes, and funky dance moves! Taking place at the gorgeous and elegant venue The Old Rectory, Padworth the evening promises to be one filled with fun, laughter, and tempting tipples. More details to follow shortly regarding tickets so keep an eye out on MVP's Facebook page on how to bag yourself a place.



Can you help us? We are looking for some cracking auction prizes to help us raise more money for the schools on this fun evening so if you are a local business or work for/own a company that could help us with this quest please contact us at; mortimerschoolsptfa@gmail.com - thank you Mortimer we know you will step up! We would also like to invite you to save the date for a festive, family-filled afternoon at our **Christmas Fair on Saturday 4th December 2021** at Mortimer St. John's Infant School. More details to follow.

Mortimer Bell Ringers

As the autumn approaches, we are pretty much back to normal. Our band, which comes from Mortimer, Burghfield and further afield, is able to practice on a Monday either at St. Mary's down the hill or Padworth church and are ringing most Sundays at St. John's in the village. It has also been lovely to ring for weddings again.

We are also delighted to have three people who are learning to ring. This is great news and they are all progressing well. Like riding a bike, it takes a little while to get the hang of how to handle the bell rope to ring the bell but once that is mastered, the rest feels far more straightforward!

As always, anyone interested either in learning or returning to ringing will be most welcome. Just drop an email to mortimerbellringers@gmail.com

Made in Mortimer

A very big thank you to everyone who supported us and participated in our walking market on 10 July! It was a first of a kind for our group and we really weren't sure if it would work - so it was truly wonderful to see so many people out and about despite the drizzly weather, browsing and completing the children's trail. It gave so many of our members a much needed boost and was great to be able to carry out some fundraising for Mortimer Preschool, with over £350 raised!

In September, Made in Mortimer members met for our first face to face meeting since Covid which was fabulous, after a good chinwag we got onto the serious business of organising some more events! Please follow our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/MadeinMortimer to keep up to date - we are now in planning stages and hope to organise some crafting evenings in the village soon where anyone can attend to learn a new craft or skill together.



We also have two market dates for your diaries - Covid permitting, we will be holding our usual October fair this year on **Sunday 24th October** at Mortimer Community Centre and our Christmas shopping evening on **Friday 3rd December** at St. John's hall - save the dates!

For anyone interested in joining, please contact Emma Vidal on 0118 933 1623. We are a friendly group, meeting on Thursday evenings once a month, and are open to anyone who makes their own crafts and is in, or local to Mortimer village.

Mortimer Life

MORTIMERLIFE

News, Events and Information

St. John's Village Hall news: The hall's trustees are partway through a significant refurbishment of the seating area, by the pavement, to make it more attractive and welcoming for passers-by. The bin and signage have been relocated and the ground re-laid for a new bench donated by the family and in memory of Sarah Hawkins, formerly of Mortimer Pre-School and St. John's School. Planters, dedicated to Lawrence Picking, with one bought by the parish council, will recognise his service as parish council chairman and central role at Mortimer Amateur Dramatics. Gavin and Rachel from the Baobab have kindly offered to stock and maintain both. The team hope to complete the work and announce its official opening later this autumn.

Website Refresh: What started as a few security tweaks, turned into a full redesign of our web site www.Mortimer.Life. It now aims to compliment other outlets with topical news, detailed recycling and environmental information, health and leisure ideas, music and an events calendar. We'd be delighted to hear your suggestions of items to add or change. We're on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, email and phone too:

☎ 07447 557557

✉ enquiries@Mortimer.Life

www.mortimer.life



Bughfield and Mortimer Handybus

The Bughfield and Mortimer Handybus Charity operate a volunteer run community transport service for our elderly and less able members of the Parish. We operate two specially adapted minibuses taking passengers on regular shopping trips, social

outings and medical appointments. After a disruptive 18 months, our minibuses are now back operating on a regular basis. We are currently taking a number of Mortimer residents on shopping trips to local supermarkets, but we do have capacity to take more passengers. If you are interested in a door to door transport service to the local supermarket please contact us, details as below.

Providing this valuable community service is dependent on volunteers. We are especially in need of volunteer escorts, to accompany our drivers and assist 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

Save the Children – Kennet Branch

Kennet Branch of Save the Children were delighted to be back in the fundraising saddle with September Songtime. Although they have run a similar evening event for at least twelve years, this was the first Sunday lunchtime, and it was a resounding success. Aided by the glorious weather, the Clive Fortune Big Band were the headline performers, with three sets punctuated by Liza Marshall who did mellow acoustic numbers and Joe Driver who held children and adults spellbound with his stories.

The Bubbles Man performed on the tennis court, keeping the children entertained. Around 150 adults bought tickets, and total profit was a stunning £2,000. We're back!



Mortimer West End & District Annual Show

We only took the decision to go ahead with the 2021 show in late June, and it was great to be back! To assist with social distancing, we slightly reduced the entry content and provided an extra marquee outside of the main hall to help spread the entry displays – we hoped you liked the small change in format.

The weather was kind to us, and we had a respectable turnout of entrants, with some perennial participants travelling from several hundred miles to attend, and it was fantastic to see many new faces too. After the judging was complete, it was

great to have such a large public support in the afternoon to view all the entries and sample the delicious homemade cakes and tea – it really is such a good social occasion for the village.

We appreciate that it was a late decision for the show to go ahead this year and maybe we didn't get the publicity right this time. However, we do hope to be more active with publicity and social media in the run up to the 2022 show, and we always now post on the MVP events page.

If you missed the show this time, then please put the date in your diary for next year. It is always held on August Bank Holiday Saturday. So that's **27th August 2022!**

We'd love to hear your comments, via the Show Facebook page or contact the Show Chairman
<https://www.facebook.com/mweshow>



✉ ngmunson@yahoo.com

Mortimer Pre-School



Mortimer Pre-School has re-started for this academic year with a new intake of 2 and 3 year olds. This term we're learning 'All about Me' and we're excited to see where the children will lead us on our exploration of this topic.

Our returning children have been very excited to see the seasonal changes in the new Pre-School garden. The garden was renovated in the spring term by our Pre-School Committee. The

Committee funded new all-weather flooring and exciting new outdoor toys but it was **the children** who planted it up so beautifully and tended to the plants and flowers during the summer term.

Aside from our busy weeks of activities, this term we're also looking forward to partaking in the Mortimer Scarecrow Trail and planning a Christmas show.

We are also in the process of changing our charity status to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. While on a day-to-day basis this won't affect how we operate, it has many benefits for the Pre-School. One of these is that we can open up the opportunity for trusteeship to the wider community and draw on local expertise. Our new trustees will act in a similar way to the governing body in a school – if you think this is something you'd be interested in then please do get in touch for more information. We'd very much like to hear from you.

If you are interested in a place for your child, either this academic year or in the future, then please do get in touch at info@mortimerpreschool.org.uk

Mortimer Baby and Toddler Group

Lots of Fun for Babies and Toddlers! Mortimer Baby and Toddler Group is thrilled to be running again from the Mortimer Methodist Church Hall. We are there every Tuesday in term-time from 10 – 11:30 a.m.

Our play kitchen, play house, work bench and dollies have been very lonely for the last 18 months, so do come for some role play. There are also lots of cars and trains waiting for little hands to brroom – brroom them around the train track or garage. Our painting easels are out every other week for all those trainee Picassos and the tufftray is always filled with something interesting to feel and manipulate – playdough, foam, play zoo with straw and leaves, diggers and tractors with lentils and pasta to dig in, play farm with oats and cereal. There are lots of dinosaurs, building toys and puzzles. For those who need to be on the go there is a little slide, tunnels and lots of sit-on-rides. There is always a safe baby corner with soft mats, bumbos and appropriate toys for those still too little to join in some of the mayhem. And lots more.

Every week there is a healthy snack for the little ones and tea or coffee for the grown-ups and sitting in a circle and singing songs and shaking musical instruments takes up the last 15 minutes. This term we will be having bouncy castle weeks on 28th September and 23rd November. We have a new, exciting, double slide bouncy castle for the truly active and a little traditional one for those just trying out bouncy castles for the first time. Our Christmas party will be on 14th December.

So we look forward to seeing lots of new little faces (and their accompanying grown-ups – mums, dads, grannies, grandads or other carers!)

We recommend following our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/MortimerToddlers> for any last minute updates.



Mortimer Dramatic Society

We are excited to be opening up the doors (or should that read curtains?) to our theatre work at long last!

We would like to take this opportunity to reach out to our local community and welcome all those who would like to try out a new hobby creating live theatre. Are you, or a friend/family member, tempted to try theatre as a new hobby? Here's an opportunity you may be interested in: our first activity is something along the lines of a Play in a Weekend!

We will work in small teams to get to know, rehearse and perform a short play, approximately 10 minutes long.

Session 1	Saturday October 30th	9:30am – 12:30pm
Session 2	Sunday October 31st	1:30pm – 4:00pm
Performance	Sunday October 31st	4:30pm – 5:00pm

If you would like join us as an actor or a director for this special event please contact Mari Fleming on info@mortimer-dramatic.org and book your place now. Please detail if you would prefer to act or direct.

Actors - No previous experience is required. You will not be expected to learn lines as scripts can be used for the relaxed performance.

Directors - Some previous experience will be preferred. We will have directors available to offer guidance and tips should you require any assistance.

There are 12 places, available on a first come-first served basis. There may also be opportunities for you to join us as part of the small audience. Look out for our emails nearer the date! We can't wait to see you.

Find out more, including the safety precautions we inevitably will need to follow, on our website: www.mortimer-dramatic.org

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

You may or may not have heard of the planned SMPC VE75 commemoration which unfortunately had to be cancelled in May 2020 has now been rolled into **"The Queens Platinum 70th Jubilee"** (not – for profit) on the weekend of **Friday 3rd evening & all day Saturday 4th June 2022**. Put the Date in your Diary for the extra special Bank Holiday weekend! Not to be missed on Mortimer Fairground.

There are HGV low loaders for local organisations, businesses, clubs, schools etc to transform into decorated floats all based around the theme "Queen". So get your thinking heads on and apply for a float totally free of charge and be part of the carnival procession around the Village of Mortimer with prizes for the best dressed and loudest float.

The Royal Occasion will be Free Entry with a varied mix of music, food outlets, licensed bars, refreshments, fun fair, side shows and local stalls. The Epsom Derby will be screened live on the Saturday along with a sports day (to coincide with 2022 Commonwealth games being held in Britain) for the children and competitive adults, tug-o-war, sack race, egg & spoon race, wheel barrow and many more.

It will round off with tribute bands on Saturday night under a massive Big Top marquee. It's going to be a BIG ONE on a special weekend for the village of Mortimer with a professional pyrotechnics display wrapping up the party on Saturday evening.

Now you have a taste of what's in the pipeline for next year. **But what we need now is YOU!** If you have a couple of hours to volunteer with marshalling on the Saturday we would love to hear from you. Should you be available to volunteer on the Fairground or be part of the carnival procession and you have always wanted to wear a Hi - Vis jacket now's your chance, so please do get in touch.

Simon Beard, Chairman of the Organising Committee
simon.beard@stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk

MVP Team Thanks

As the MVP marquees have, like all of us, had an extended period in storage, we took to the scout hut one Saturday morning to give them all an airing and a clean. They will now be ready for use again as (we hope) we all return to a full calendar of events in the year to come. **Thanks team** for giving up your time to hone your scrubbing, mopping and folding skills.



MVP Affiliate Directory

This autumn we welcome two new affiliates – The Oaks Childcare Club CIC and 1st Mortimer Guides.

You can find out information about all our affiliates on

<https://www.mortimervillage.org.uk/Affiliate-Support/Current-Affiliates>

If you share a common interest with a friend and have thought about getting others involved to create a new group or organization (cycling, needlework for example), MVP are able to help. Or maybe you are already part of a group or club and think you may benefit from Affiliation. You can check out the benefits on

<https://www.mortimervillage.org.uk/Affiliate-Support/Benefits> or contact us via affiliates@mortimervillage.org.uk

Affiliate	Telephone	Email
1st Burghfield & Sulhamstead Scouts	07867 00335	burghfieldgsl@outlook.com
1st Mortimer Brownies	933 3153	firstmortimerbrownies@hotmail.co.uk
1st Mortimer Guides	07886 24611	mortimerguides@hotmail.com
1st Mortimer Scouts	933 2147	Info@1st-Mortimer.org.uk
1st Ufton Nervet Scout Group	07793 96863	cathryn@uftonscouts.com

Affiliate	Telephone	Email
Age Concern	07852 57733	tubbs66.tb@googlemail.com
Alfred Palmer Memorial Field Trust		trustees@alfredpalmermemorialfield.org.uk
B&M Volunteer Drivers	922 3365	bureauvolunteer@gmail.com
Belle Canto Trio	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
Burghfield Santas	07557 05224	gareth.green@gmail.com
Crafters Club		d.stroud2010@btinternet.com
Hurst Singers	933 2805 07882 40433	mariatseasons@aol.com
Made in Mortimer	933 1623	wellandemma@hotmail.com
Mortimer & Burghfield Toy Library	07733 97741	janetrintoul@hotmail.com
Mortimer 2012 WI		mortimer2012wi@berkshirewi.co.uk
Mortimer Baby & Toddler Group	933 2620	mortimertoddlers@gmail.com
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	07785 333321	info@mortimer-dramatic.org
Mortimer FC	07786 31027	mortimerfootballclub@gmail.com
Mortimer Gardening Club		pjsmarsh@hotmail.com

Affiliate	Telephone	Email
Mortimer Life	07446 39239	nickyc@live.co.uk
Mortimer Local History Group	933 1310	munsonsinmortimer@yahoo.co.uk
Mortimer Methodist Church	933 3689	daphneycooney@gmail.com
Mortimer Music Live CIC	07779 39495	info@mortimermusiclive.co.uk
Mortimer Netball Club		mortimernetball@gmail.com
Mortimer Pre School Parents Committee		info@mortimerpreschool.org.uk
Mortimer Schools PTFA		mortimerschoolsptfa@gmail.com
Mortimer Surgery Patients Participation Group	983 2377	grobinson.email@btinternet.com
Mortimer Tennis Club		info@mortimertennisclub.co.uk
Mortimer West End & District Annual Show	07905 17665	ngmunson@yahoo.com
Mortimer West End Village Hall	07780 88771	mwevhall@gmail.com
Royal British Legion	07852 57733	tubbs66.tb@googlemail.com
Save the Children - Kennet Branch B25		jclaredowney@gmail.com
South Berks Concert Band	07759 67474	southberksconcertband@yahoo.com
Stratfield Mortimer Fairground Charity		gemmademelza@gmail.com
The Oaks Childcare Clubs CIC	933 2960	office@theoakschildcare.co.uk
Together in Mission	07931 305996	info@togetherinmission.org.uk
West Berkshire Walking 4 Health	07770 18910	gb@atpps.com

MVP Contact Details

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Secretary	John Hannawin	john@i-next.co.uk	933 2577
Treasurer	Ali Richardson	alison.richardson1964@gmail.com	
Affiliates Secretary	Julie Carter	juliekarter77@gmail.com	933 2265

MVP Committee meetings are at 7:30pm on the 2nd Tuesday of the month (except August and December) and are currently being held via Zoom. 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.

*For the Zoom meeting link please use the **Contact Us** button on the website, or contact any of the committee members above. You are most welcome regardless of how much or little time you have to give.*

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www.protect-invest.com

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