

February 2022 NEWSLETTER



Mortimer Village Partnership
Enriching Village Life

A Spring Clean and a Green Start to 2022

2022 has started well for MVP; we're delighted to have a number of new members join us. It's great to have more pairs of hands to work on all the good stuff we have planned, but it also means new, fresh ideas about what we could and should be doing, and challenging how we do it.

Work is underway on our usual activities, like the Spring Clean and new ones including supporting the SMPC Jubilee Celebrations, but we're also looking at some of our backroom activities. John, our Tech Guru, is looking at new e-commerce opportunities so that we can keep up with the paperless/cash free society. This means that tickets, fees, maps etc. can all be paid very simply online, directly on our website. This is, of course, more sustainable as far as the paper usage is concerned, but we still have the Website Energy issue.

I am delighted therefore to say that MVP has now switched its website to "the most eco-friendly platform" using entirely green energy. I can't pretend I understand very much about this, but if you are interested, contact us through the MVP website.

So what about our Newsletter's eco credentials? It's a good point - we could go entirely online- but we are told people like to have the hard copy and we know not everyone is online. This newsletter is printed on FSC certified paper, sourced from UK trees and printed using water-based ink. We may look to move to recycled paper in the future if its green credentials can be proven and costs are not prohibitive.

Please get in contact (see back page) if you would like to join us or have any ideas that will help build an environmentally sustainable Mortimer Community.

Doug Overett
Chairman

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



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

Lunch Club

We are delighted to announce that Mortimer Lunch Club are joint winners of the West Berkshire Community Group of the Year Award for 2021. The Council recognised the value of this group in bringing the older members of our community together and the ways we were able to respond to the difficulties posed by the pandemic. The Lunch Club organisers acknowledged that the success of this group is entirely down to the tremendous support of businesses and individuals in our community and the dedication of the volunteers who freely give their time to make this club a success.



In light of the latest Covid variant sweeping through our community, Lunch Club is taking a (hopefully) short break to protect our lunch guests. We hope to be up and running again on 24th February. If any senior members of our community would like to join us for a light lunch and some company, please do get in touch. Lunch Club meets at the Mortimer Community Centre on the **2nd and last Thursday of every month** from noon until 1:15. Handybus transport to the community centre can be arranged. Please call Rebecca on 07515775464.

Spring Clean

Please make a quick note that this year's Annual Spring Clean will be held on **Saturday 19th March** between 1 and 4 pm. As in previous years, we will start and finish in the garden of the Horse & Groom or the Fairground car park opposite. This has been a popular social event for families as well as individuals in the past and it would be great to see some new faces along with the regulars showing appreciation for the village and a willingness to help keep it looking so lovely.



Please turn up early if there is a particular part of the village you would like to tackle! We'll do our best to accommodate that. High-visibility jackets, gloves, sacks and litter-pickers will be provided when you sign in. Please look out for more information on the noticeboards, website and Facebook in the coming weeks.

Pantomime & Scarecrow Trail

MVP hosted these two events at the end of last year. The Scarecrow Trail saw a fantastic array of characters that entertained the trailers throughout half term,

congratulation to the winners and huge thanks to all participants. Photos of the winners can be found on the MVP website: mortimervillage.org.uk/Scarecrow-Trail

And it was great to have Gary Starr's Touring Pantomimes back to perform their Christmas show, The Mischievous Elf. Two sell-out crowds booed, cheered and hissed their way through the fun-filled shows. Thank you to everyone who attended and especially those who shared such lovely feedback. Such kind words really spur on our team of volunteers.

We're already looking at options for this year's events so, as always, look out for announcements on the village noticeboards, website and Facebook page!

MVP Website

Did you know that as well as producing this newsletter and managing the MVP Facebook group, MVP maintains a website? (www.mortimervillage.org.uk).

Browsing this website will provide you with a lot of information about the village, the clubs and businesses that are here, a calendar of village events, the history of the village and of course information about MVP itself (including back copies of newsletters).

But of course the value of the website is only as good as the information that is held there and the extent to which it is used. Now that lockdowns are (hopefully) behind us and the village is getting back to normal, this seems a good time to ask for any feedback about this website. Specifically:

- Do you find the website useful?
- Is there any information that you would like to see there?
- Is there any information there that is not of value (because it can be obtained elsewhere for example)?
- Would you want to feed information into the website, about a club, for example, or just news that you would like to see?

All input welcome, via 'Contact Us' on the website (under About Us) or email the website admin on webmaster@mortimervillage.org.uk

MVP Affiliate News

Mortimer Schools Parents, Teachers & Friends Association

The end of 2021 saw our first ever 'November to Remember' dance and boy did it go with a bang! Thank you to all those that came to support the event, the wonderful businesses, and the people that made generous donations to our auction. Special thanks to our sponsors TA Fisher and David Cliff Estate Agents, and

of course the gorgeous venue The Old Rectory, Padworth for kindly hosting the event. We're pleased to say we raised over £4,500 for the schools! We hope to repeat the event so keep your peepers peeled for news on this.

One fantastic outcome from all of our fundraising has been a renovated and improved playhouse in the playground of Mortimer St John's Infant Schools for all the kiddies to enjoy this spring. We continue our fundraising efforts to improve and upgrade outdoor play equipment at Mortimer St Mary's.

Oh, my ducknessOur next exciting event to go quackers about is taking place on **Saturday 2nd April at 6:30 pm!** Yes, that's right our infamous Duck Race is back for 2022.



Do you have a local business in the village that would benefit from an amazing advertising opportunity?

The Mortimer schools Quacky Races is back and will be bigger and better in 2022!! The event is a virtual duck race and will be advertised locally using social media. The school's PTFA would love to have each race sponsored by a parent who has a local business. This will be a fantastic opportunity to advertise your business via the duck race site (Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube). We are looking for the following sponsors-

3 Champagne Race sponsors. The cost to sponsor a race is £300.

14 Duck Race sponsors. The cost to sponsor a race is £100.

Please contact Michelle Nicholas (year 3 parent) on 07778049370 or via class list or email Mortimerschoolsptfa@gmail.com if you are interested.

Girlguiding

Girlguiding like other village groups have had to meet virtually for several months last year.

The Brownies, (7-10 year olds), had to adapt our activities to Zoom and we enjoyed meeting our girls on-line.

We enjoyed some games and quizzes and a baking activity that we all did in our own kitchens whilst watching our friends making theirs at the same time!

The Brownies got back to face-to face meetings in the summer term. This was initially outside and we enjoyed meeting on the Fairground.

A particularly memorable evening was when we were having fun on one part of the Fairground, a cricket match was also taking part and the circus was also performing.



Anyone driving through our village that evening would have had a glimpse of some of the fun and community spirit that goes on here.

We also enjoyed some den building in the woods by St. Catherine's Hill and are now back at The Methodist Hall on a Wednesday evening.

Our local Guide group, (10-14 year olds) has re-opened and meets on a Thursday evening at The Scout Hut. There are several spaces currently available so please contact Toni Gowland if you are interested (contact details at back of this newsletter.)

Unfortunately, our Rainbow Group, (5-7 year olds) has had to close again due to lack of volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, please go to www.girlguiding.org.uk and see the 'Get Involved' section.

1st Mortimer Scout Group



At long last all our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts were able to get back to enjoying Scouting and the great outdoors again; Tracking in the Woods, Games on the Field, Fire lighting, Wood cutting, Learning to put up a tent, Sausage Sizzle, Marsh Mallows (of course), Water Rockets, Hiking, Map Reading, Cycling, Pioneering.

During the October Half Term our Scouts enjoyed a great camp on the Isle of Wight it was really good to get back to camping; there is nothing better than enjoying hearty meals cooked over an open fire. Beavers and Cubs had a great time carving Pumpkins for Halloween with some really great and scary designs

At long last we were able to parade on Remembrance Sunday and for the first time parade our new group's colours. For most of our Cubs and all of our Beavers, this was their first parade; they did all look very smart and were a credit to our group and their families.

As Christmas approached we held our Cubs annual Fun and Games Christmas Camp in our HQ culminating in a full Christmas dinner enjoyed by all. Our Beavers set about creating some lovely Christmas cards and the Cubs made String Snowmen out of balloons, string and PVA glue, a bit messy but the end results were spectacular.



Our Scouts have been busy as well, with thanks to Englefield Estate we spent several evening building Bivvis in the West End woods as well as running a Box challenge

Competition. More recently they have been doing some Pioneering and Oven building in preparation for a bake off competition.

Coming up on **March 26th** is the **Skip Johnson Memorial Hike competition** which has been delayed for several years due to the pandemic.

Whilst our Beaver Colony and Cub Pack are quite full, we do have spaces in our Scout Group. If you would like more information just email info@1st-mortimer.org.uk And lastly this year is our 112th Birthday WOW !!

Mortimer Pre-School

We are so proud of our achievements last term at Pre-School. As our older children started on their new adventures at school, we welcomed in 19 new starters. And what a busy term we had. We crafted displays for our Pre-School windows, built scarecrows for the Scarecrow trail, we celebrated festivals of light, birthdays and Christmas. We coloured, glued and got messy making our own clutter of spiders. We sang, and read and did PE with Sporty Sarah. We played in our new garden, and we cooked our own snacks and even Christmas cakes for our families. Above all, we learned and had fun together.



As Christmas approached it became clear that to protect our families and local community, opening the doors to our families to watch our Christmas show couldn't happen. Instead we filmed our show and sent it home to be enjoyed. We are hoping that as Spring fast approaches we can instead look forward to the **Mortimer Pre-School Easter Egg Hunt** to be held on the Fairground on Easter Saturday. We look forward to sharing more information with you soon.

If you are interested in a place for your child at Mortimer Pre-School please get in touch at admissions@mortimerpreschool.org.uk or visit our website www.mortimerpreschool.org.uk

Burghfield Camera Club

We start the new year with a varied and inspirational programme. Our first competition produced some amazing images. In the next few weeks we will explore more about portraits and lighting and discussion of members' current projects. We then look forward to spring when we all hope to get out more and welcome the photographic opportunities the seasons brings.



Check out our programme and details here: www.burghfieldcameraclub.co.uk Or if you would like to come along and try us out, email burghfieldccsec@gmail.com

Mortimer & Burghfield Toy Library

Thank you, Mortimer for your support in November and January. We have had a record number of people visiting. Lots of people are experiencing the valuable service we offer. When grandchildren are visiting you can borrow toys to entertain the little ones, or grab a booster seat so they can sit at the table. Our regular hirers are coming back month after month, finding new toys to keep their children busy. Someone even hired lots of toys for a party. It certainly can save you money and hassle!

If you want to join just come along on the **Fourth Saturday of the month** with proof of address. Or look at our Facebook page for detail of our toys. A new, expanded team of volunteers would love to meet you. Opening times in Mortimer Methodist Church:

- Tuesdays 10-11 alongside Toddler Group
- February 26th 10-11
- March 26th 10-11

Mortimer Dramatic Society

Hello Mortimer, who would have thought that our last performances would have been in January 2020! Some of you may have been aware that we were hoping to perform in January 2022, but the sudden upsurge in Covid cases in December meant that we had to take the unpalatable decision to postpone. In the end the Omicron variant did not result in the expected lockdown, and we are now in the throes of finding a suitable date to reschedule Murder on West Moon Street. We will publicise the dates as soon as they have been confirmed.



Mortimer
Dramatic Society

As I have said before, there are many roles that need to be filled to put on a production and we are always keen to welcome new members so if you would like to join or simply becoming a Friend, please contact us via our web site www.mortimer-dramatic.org or follow us on Facebook.

We are ever hopeful that our world might be returning to some sort of normal and that the threat of lockdowns and strict social distancing might be behind us. This being the case, we are beginning to look forward to resuming our usual programme of three performances a year. So please do let us know if you would like to be involved in any future productions, either on stage or behind the scenes. That way we can ensure you are always in the know.

We look forward to welcoming you all again soon, it's been too long.

Mortimer Surgery Patient Participation Group

As a surgery we have continued to face a very challenging workload in the face of significant staffing problems. We do operate a same-day triage call list aimed at urgent clinical issues that need to be dealt with that day and we would ask patients who have administrative or non-urgent issues to use the routine bookable slots accessible either online or through reception. Most GPs are continuing to offer telephone assessment first for booked appointments with face-to-face appointments offered when clinically appropriate, or after discussion with the patient.

We are pleased that we have 2 new GPs joining us:

Dr Alastair Petter will be joining us at the end of February doing 6 sessions over 4 days a week. He is doing some morning sessions before he starts.

Dr Jason Seewoodhary is a locum GP who will be working 2 full days to cover Dr Homfray's maternity leave.

Dr Seewoodhary and Dr Petter have significant experience in general practice.

Unfortunately we're struggling to staff our nursing team due to maternity leave and other reasons. We hope to recruit new nurses soon but some non-urgent services offered by the treatment room will be temporarily restricted for the short term.

The Covid vaccination clinics offered by our PCN group through Pangbourne surgery have continued up to now, increasing the delivery of booster vaccines and contributing over 50,000 vaccines in total. Some of the sessions were covered by Mortimer GPs and nursing staff who worked over the Christmas holidays to provide these appointments. As demand reduces, these clinics will operate in a restricted fashion over the next month or two. Patients eligible for the Pangbourne clinics will continue to be notified directly.

Thank you to our patients for their understanding and support in what continues to be a very challenging time for the NHS.

Dr Gill French

Stratfield Mortimer Fairground Charity

We are a small local charity based in Stratfield Mortimer and our aim as a charity is to help residents of the parish who may be in need of extra support. We do this by using the rent we receive from the Fairground to make donations to local organisations that provide help to those in need.

The Stratfield Mortimer Fairground Charity owns the Fairground, which is to be used as a public recreation ground and events space for the village. The Parish Council lease the Fairground from the Charity, and do an excellent job of operating it in

accordance with this purpose, managing and enhancing this valuable facility for the benefit of all.

The modest rent received by the Charity from leasing the Fairground is used to make grants to a number of local bodies whose work supports those residents of Stratfield Mortimer who might need a little extra help. If you are involved with a local group or charity that offers support or help to residents of Mortimer and are seeking additional funding, please get in touch with us providing information about your organisation and what you would wish to do with a small grant to support those in need. Recent donations made by the Trustees include to Mortimer School for extra educational events, Together in Mission, who support the elderly and vulnerable through things like befriending and children through the Willink School pastor service, and the Clarke Educational Foundation who provide funding support to students from the Parish.

Contact information: Gemma Matthews, Secretary gemma@mortimervillage.org.uk

Mortimer Cricket Club

MORTIMER Cricket Club is gearing up for the 2022 season with preparations well underway. Our **winter nets** are due to commence every **Sunday from February 13th until April 10th** at Theale Green School. Sessions run from 2pm to 3:30pm when we will be using three bays, one of which will be for our bowling machine.

We are a friendly, inclusive village club and would love to see some new faces. We welcome players of all ages and ability and we are offering discounted membership for newcomers.

MCC will be running a regular Saturday team throughout the season in the Berkshire Cricket League in addition to a number of friendly Sunday fixtures against other local clubs. We are also planning several fundraising events – including our annual fixture against The Villagers for the Alan Thorpe Trophy!

A groundwork party put in a long shift last September to put the pitch 'to bed' for the winter and we will be working hard again to get everything ready and in order for the new season. Like our friends at Mortimer Football Club, we would not exist without the incredible work of our volunteers and the continued support of our sponsors – The Horse and Groom, Mortimer Chocolate Company, Burghfield Spices and Berkshire & Hampshire Heat Pumps.

For more information about Mortimer Cricket Club, please email chairman Tony Alder at tja@maurer.co.uk

Here's to a successful 2022 season and we look forward to welcoming new members!

Mortimer 2012 WI



We have continued to hold our face-to-face monthly meetings since restarting in August and have enjoyed a variety of different speakers. Alisa Claybourn told us more about the habits of our garden birds and under the guidance of Mary Sibley we attempted Willow Weaving, making a Star for Christmas. The highlight of our year was our Christmas party when we were entertained by the hugely talented Carol Wheeler with her Handbells playing Christmas songs.

As we move into 2022 we have a full programme of speakers and our Book, Walking and Lunch groups continue to meet, with the walking group growing in numbers every month. We meet to play Walking Netball on the Fairground each Thursday, new players are always welcome; you do not need to be a WI member to join us.

We welcome all women and invite you to come along and give us a try. We meet on the **first Wednesday of the Month at 7:30pm** in the Mortimer Community Centre opposite the Horse and Groom. Our full programme of speakers can be found on the MVP noticeboard. We can be contacted on mortimer2012wi@berkshirewi.co.uk

The Burghfield and Mortimer Volunteer Bureau

The Burghfield and Mortimer Volunteer Bureau was established in 1974 in order to assist local people who required help getting to hospital, dental, optician and GP appointments.



The recent pandemic has meant that we were unable to operate the service for many months over the last two years as our clients and indeed our drivers were all in the 'at risk' category and needed to be protected from the virus.

We went into hibernation, waited, and now we are back. We have a new organiser, Gilbert Bedford, a new treasurer, Belinda Chaplin, and a new secretary, Julie Carter joining me Steve Carter taking over as Chair in 2019. I would like to thank Derek and Jenny Seward and Monica Clarke for all their hard work in previous years.

We have a few amazing, dependable and willing drivers, but as the local population ages, and hospitals begin the mammoth task of catching up on all those missed appointments, we still need new drivers to join our happy team. If you are able to give some time during the week to help us fulfil our drive requests it would be massively appreciated. A generous fuel allowance is paid to drivers. Drivers are not

committed to regular drives; they just accept them as they are offered should they wish to do so.

Clients give a voluntary contribution towards their lift, and everyone is really appreciative of the service provided and give generously to keep the service going.

For a drive to an appointment please call the office Mon-Fri 09:30 - 11:30 on 01189 831814. To volunteer as a driver please call the office or email Gilbert at bureauorganiser@gmail.com

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 2021.

After a successful return last year, our Midsummer Music event will return on **Sunday June 26th 2022** with headliners Clive Fortune Big Band supplying big band classics and jazz standards as well as more contemporary arrangements for big band. For those who haven't been before, it's an afternoon of live music and entertainment in a beautiful garden setting in Burghfield Village, so please save the date. Changing to an afternoon event with a 12 noon start time was a big hit so we will keep to this this year. A hog roast and bar will be laid on and there will be entertainment for children. Please see the MVP webpage and calendar later in the year for full details of the support acts or search Save the Children Kennet Branch on Facebook for our events page.

We're also providing the refreshments at the Café, The Old Stables, Whitchurch on Thames, RG8 7DF on the morning of **Saturday 16th April** and will have a stall in the marquee at the Burghfield May Fayre on **Sunday 8th May**.

Toddler and Baby Group

Mortimer Toddler and Baby Group continues to meet at the Methodist Church Hall on Tuesdays in term-time. Since the Christmas party at the end of last term (where Santa himself turned up to distribute lovely books to wide-eyed toddlers), we have continued to have lots of fun. Every week we provide a changing set of toys and props for role play in our wooden house, different media like paint, chalk or paintsticks to be creative on the easels, trains with a layout or masses of cars to brrrum away with, something to build with like Duplo or sticklebricks or wooden blocks, "small worlds" to create with animals, dinosaurs or a farm set, as well as quiet activities, books and a baby corner.



Very popular have been our slightly more messy activities in the tuff tray. One week we had our new set of forest animals, logs, twigs, leaves and playdough to experiment with. Another time we made a lovely mess with piles of oats, rice and pasta and lots of containers and scoops. By the time you read this, we will have done painting with pompoms held in clothes pegs (I think that is going to be very messy), played with polar animals in piles of foam as pretend snow, and made a huge mess with glue and feathers and scraps having a go at collage.

Plenty of people start coming with their little ones before they are old enough to take part in all the activities, but they benefit in seeing lots of children and getting used to the busy environment. And their mums, dads or carers have a chance to chat and exchange ideas.

So if you have a baby or a child and are available on Tuesday mornings, come and drop in and see what you think! You will be made very welcome. You can find more information on our Facebook page www.facebook.com/MortimerToddlers

Belle Canto Trio

Luckily, our Christmas concert, in aid of Beech Hill church, took place just before worries over Omicron really hit. Our new one-hour concert of fourteen Christmas songs ranging from Christmas Shopping Blues to A Christmas Lullaby was well received by an appreciative Covid-limited capacity audience of forty, and the red, green and gold decorations, as well as the hot drinks and mince pies added to the festive feel of the occasion.



We were disappointed that our January concert with Reading Male Voice Choir was cancelled due to Covid concerns, but we are looking forward to singing with them in the future.

Meanwhile we are preparing a new concert of celebratory songs to perform at midday on **Saturday 2nd April at Shinfield St Mary's**. We are sure that our audiences will be in the mood for something happy and upbeat! Full details will be available nearer the time at www.facebook.com/bellecantotrio and www.bellecanto.uk. We hope to see you there!

Mortimer Bell Ringers

Our band of ringers from Burghfield, Mortimer and surrounding areas, have been very busy over the last few weeks. We have four people who have come along to learn to ring and they are all progressing well. It takes time to get the basic

handling of the rope and bell sorted but when it has been cracked, it's like riding a bike, you never forget. They are now starting to ring with the band as a whole which is an important milestone.

We have been practising, and teaching, mostly at Padworth church since the bells are rung from the ground floor so there is a huge space for ventilation. This is in contrast with St Johns (opposite the common) where the ringing chamber is about 3-4 metres square. We still ring there for service on a Sunday morning but only for a short time and with a nominated six ringers. In fact the Padworth bells have been rung more this year than in a very long time which is good for them mechanically.

We hope you heard and enjoyed the ringing on the 6th February for the 70th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne in 1952.



We are now looking forward to the warmer weather since a church is quite chilly in the winter!

Burghfield and Mortimer Community First Responders

As you can imagine it has been a busy couple of years for the local CFR team responding to 999 calls. Not only have we been out to patients in the Burghfield and Mortimer but also to surrounding villages and Reading; it all depends on where the Control Room require our assistance. Covi has changed a few ways we carry out our calls with additional PPE and added challenges. Hopefully you have spotted the new Dacia Response Car out and about, sporting the green and orange livery.

The Burghfield and Mortimer First Responders currently have a team of 6 volunteers actively dispatched to emergency 999 calls on behalf of the South Central Ambulance Service; individually we give a minimum of 20 hours a month 'on duty' time which has increased more recently to support the elevated demand on Ambulance and NHS resources. The types of call we attend include cardiac arrests, heart attacks, strokes and diabetic emergencies, seizures, breathing difficulties and concerns for welfare, to name just a few. We also attend non-injury falls where we can use specialist lifting equipment to help patients up off the floor and often avoid the need for a full ambulance and crew.

During non Covi times we attend local fetes and shows offering CPR and AED (Defibrillator) usage demonstrations; it also gives us a chance to say hello. Fingers crossed, this is something we can return to soon, it would be great to have as many people aware of this life saving knowledge as possible. Do you know where the nearest AED is to you? Slowly the numbers in the villages are growing, next time you're out for a walk, see how many you can find. SCAS have a free Save a Life App you can download which gives locations of all AEDs in the area.

Even though we are part of the SCAS Team we are completely funded by the South Central Ambulance Charity. We have always had great support from local donations and for these we are truly grateful. The Charity is opening up some new roles for anyone who would like to volunteer to help but doesn't want to be involved with the clinical side of the CFR role. Please feel free to contact me by email Thomas.Maynard@sca-charity.org.uk for any more information or take a look at the SCAS Charity webpage. Let's hope 2022 is a little brighter for us all.

Together In Mission



**We are open Mondays 9am-2pm and
Wednesdays 9am-12 noon at the Burghfield
Methodist Church Hall**

We operate within Covid safe guidelines.

Go to our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CommunityCaféB/>
Alex Lines, Manager Café B cafeb@togetherinmission.org.uk



Happy Memories of Christmas Past ...

We held a Christmas celebration with our friends and their volunteers. The seasonal refreshments and singalongs provided our TiM family with a round of good cheer! These events take place only with the help of our wonderful volunteers, Don Harwood and the Handy Bus team, and

organisations like UNFAC who provide valuable support. A big 'THANK YOU' to our volunteers in managing all the recent changes in Covid rules.

We have two people waiting for a volunteer - can you help?

Bev French, TiM Friends Coordinator : 07748 686615 : bevfrench6@gmail.com



A New Challenge for a New Year

Can you help for an hour or two a week to keep our media platforms up to date? Please contact Jon for full details 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

Mortimer West End & District Annual Show

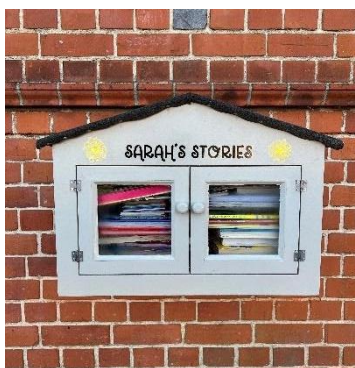
With spring just around the corner and many of us looking forward to the growing season ahead; don't forget to put the Mortimer West End & District Annual show in your diary. It will be held on **Saturday 27th August** this year and we'd love to see all your amazing produce, arts and crafts on display.

Our 2022 schedule is currently being finalised and you can find updates or leave us comments on the Show Facebook page www.facebook.com/mweshow or contact our Chairman on email: ngmunson@yahoo.com

St John's Village Hall – New Year, New Things Happening

Changes at the village hall continue as we start 2022. The new bench in memory of Sarah Hawkins is now flanked by two planters, commemorating Lawrence Picking, former Chair of the Parish Council and of the Hall Trustees. The heavy planters, positioned with the help of Spratley's (thank you, Paul and Gareth), will give a beautiful display of flowers throughout the year (thank you Rachel from The Baobab and the children from Mortimer Pre-School who will be caring for the plants). A new flowerbed at the side of the car park will soon be planted up.

On the wall at the side of the main entrance Mortimer Pre-school has installed a little lending library: 'Sarah's Stories', in memory of colleague and dear friend Sarah



Hawkins. Sarah loved stories and books, as the children she worked with at St. John's Infants School and Mortimer Pre-school over the years will know. When reading, Sarah brought a book alive from the first word, and she inspired so many people to pick up books and read. The idea behind the library is for children to borrow a book and then return it to the story box when they've finished it. We are happy for extra story books to be left for the children of the village to read so Sarah's love of stories is carried on.

For many years John Bull has done a wonderful job as Bookings Secretary for the hiring of the hall, and we thank him for all the time and care that he has given to this role. John has now stepped back, and an on-line system has been created which we hope will prove easy for everyone to use. To see available dates, visit: <https://hallbookingonline.com/mortimer/>

As Covid restrictions are lifted once more, we hope that everyone in Mortimer will be making maximum use of our village hall. See you there!

Mortimer West End Village Hall

Sadly, we were unable to run our Quiz in the autumn, although we were pleased to be able to host BHH's Macmillan Coffee Morning to raise some funds.



We are also pleased that some of our regulars are now returning to the hall. We have Pilates on Monday mornings (wendygill44@yahoo.co.uk) Zumba on Monday evenings (www.zumbawithionie.com) and Callewa WI on the second

Tuesday evening of each month (carolewood@live.co.uk) and, with our very reasonable rates (the small hall can be hired for as little as £3.50 per hour) there are also several other private groups who make use of our facilities to dance, keep fit, do some craft work, play their favourite board game, or hold their meetings.

Our layout also lends itself particularly well to children's parties, for which we have a special £45 rate for full use of the whole hall for four hours.

Contact us on 0118-970-0001 or mwevhall@gmail.com for more info or visit www.facebook.com/mwevillagehall

South Berks Concert Band



SBCB members hope our friends and followers in and around Mortimer remain safe and well.

The band enters the new year in good spirits after a positive end to 2021. Returning after a long Covid interruption, our autumn and Christmas Concerts at St Mary's Church in Burghfield, were cherished by band and audience alike. Our Christmas Concert sold out, and we have a list of people who missed out and are keen to go to our next concert. Let us know if you'd also like to be added to our concert contact list.



We have four concerts planned for 2022, and three bandstands already booked for the summer. Our **Spring Concert** takes place at **7pm on 19th March at St Mary's Church, Burghfield**. Join us to "Travel the World" and hear music from Ireland, America, the Caribbean, Russia, and more. Tickets are £10 and available from Baobab in Mortimer, Weller's Fruit Shop in Burghfield or via SBCB_Music@yahoo.com. Look for the posters around the village.

More dates for your diary include the **Summer Concert on 25th June** at Tadley Community Centre, and then back to Mortimer at **St John's Church on 17th September**, before returning to **Burghfield on 3rd December**. More details will be available nearer the time.

We hope to see many of you at our next concert. In the meantime, if you wish to find out more, do follow us on Facebook, look at our website or make contact with us via email: SBCB_Music@yahoo.com on www.facebook.com/SouthBerksConcertBand or www.southberksmusic.org.uk

Burghfield and Mortimer Handybus

The Burghfield and Mortimer Handybus is a local charity operating 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 and social outings. Following the easing of Covid restrictions we are now pleased to report that we are currently operating the following shopping trips:

- Monday morning to Sainsbury's Calcot
- Monday afternoon to Sainsbury's Tadley
- Tuesday morning to Newbury
- Wednesday morning to Sainsbury's Calcot
- Friday afternoon to Sainsbury's Tadley

If you are interested in taking advantage of a door-to-door transport service to the supermarket, with an escort to help you on and off the minibus with your shopping, then contact us as follows: Tel. 0118 983 6611 email thehandybus@gmail.com

The Oaks Childcare Clubs



The Oaks Childcare
Community Interest Company

It's been a busy term already in our Mortimer Clubs where we offer breakfast and after school care at Mortimer St John's (Little Oaks) and Mortimer St Mary's (Big Oaks). As parents get back to work, and Covid restrictions start to be lifted, it's wonderful to see the children and Playleaders getting back to having fun. In our Little Oaks Clubs, already

this year, we've already had a Dragons and Unicorns week, a Space themed week and Pirate week. Down the road, the Big Oaks children found a 'Magic Key' and took great care cleaning this up together. It will have pride of place in our Big Oaks building.



We've loved the domino rivalry developing between our Burghfield and Mortimer clubs – the competition is hotting up!



Disappointingly for the second year in a row, our staff Christmas party went online, with Covid cases on the rise. The festive fun didn't stop for the children though and it was an active and colourful Christmas across all of our clubs in Mortimer, Burghfield and Silchester.

We made paper chains (a record breaker?), reindeer food bags, biscuits, crackers, cards, window decorations and Christmas Tree decorations. We had mini parties in bubbles (not an easy feat!) and played pin the nose on the reindeer, and Pass the Parcel. We're sure that parents will treasure all the Christmas crafts that came home with their children for many years.

Mortimer Football Club



Mortimer football club has five teams playing on the hallowed turf of the Alfred Palmer Memorial Field - an under 15 youth team, men's Saturday first & development sides, men's Sunday morning team, and our ladies on Sunday afternoons. Alongside that we also have an under 11 side who play their matches predominantly at Kings Meadow in the Berkshire Youth Development league.

Our committee keep the pitches cut and marked each week and have been working with the trustees of the field on the general look - the new car park surface and movement of the barriers in the last months are recent progress on that front.

Our club house and licenced bar is open before, during and after our matches wherever possible and we are always on the lookout for players, supporters and volunteers.

Please contact Matthew Gabb on 07786 631027 or matthew.gabb@hotmail.com if you want to get involved or have any questions. Our Facebook and Twitter feeds are kept up to date with all information on upcoming games and events.

Up the villagers!

Mortimer Life

Foot and cycleway to Burghfield: The parish council is progressing towards obtaining planning approval for a walk/cycle route between Mortimer and Burghfield. The route runs between the corner of Victoria Rd and College Piece, and a to-be-constructed crossing near the Padworth Road/Goring Lane junction. Next steps include topography and ecology surveys and a road safety audit.

Garth Club: The Garth Club building, in St. John's Road, has been closed for about 12 years, following an unsuitable roof repair. Have your say on its future by completing the survey on our web site and/or coming to an open forum at St John's village hall on Tuesday 8th March at 7:30pm.



www.Mortimer.Life

✉ enquiries@Mortimer.Life

☎ 07447 557557

 [MortimerLife](https://www.facebook.com/MortimerLife)

 [MortimerLife](https://twitter.com/MortimerLife)

 [StratfieldMortimer](https://www.instagram.com/StratfieldMortimer)

Mortimer Methodist Church

Mortimer Methodist Church invites you and your pre-school children and babies to 'Faith & Friends' Toddler Group **every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month** (term time only). Join us for faith and friendship, refreshments too, as Faith the bear and her furry friends find out more about what 'faith' means! Enjoy their adventurous journeys through the Bible, meeting Jesus, singing songs, making crafts and having fun!!

There are 2 recent additions to the church car park area – the **Little Free Pantry** and **Ali's recycling bins**.

The principle of the Little Free Pantry is 'Take what you need, give what you can'. Donated food should be in-date, unopened and non-perishable. The scheme enables people to help people (in a similar way to the Facebook group 'Buy Nothing Mortimer'), encouraging a sense of community, kindness and awareness of need. It could be used by families who need a boost before their next payday, or those who are struggling to make ends meet on low incomes but don't necessarily need/want a food parcel. See www.littlefreepantry.org

Regarding Ali's recycling bins, Ali and her team of volunteers collect diverse items for recycling as part of the manufacturer-funded "Terracycle" scheme, aimed primarily at recycling items NOT collected by the Council via roadside collection or waste and recycling centres. For the huge range of items that can be put in the bins refer to: <https://stratfieldmortimer.com/recycling-for-the-community>

Crafters Club

Last year was our tenth anniversary but of course we could not mark it, so now we are in the 11th year and still going.

We restarted in Sept 2021 and were delighted to welcome back most of our members and a few new ones. We know that some of the older members are not ready to come out and socialise yet, but we do look forward to seeing you again soon.

As usual we meet the **1st and 3rd Fridays** of the month **1:30 to 3:30pm** at the Methodist Church Hall on West End Road. Unfortunately we have had to increase our subs to £2.50 due the fact we now have to pay insurance (whereas we were covered by the church insurance). We would love to see old and new members for a cup of tea a biscuit and a chat. You don't have to craft, just chat if you like!

Mortimer Gardening Club

The decision has been made to amalgamate the Mortimer Gardening Club with Burghfield Gardening Club who are looking forward to greeting the Mortimer group into the fold.

Please peruse the Burghfield website <https://bdhs.co.uk> or feel free to contact Chairman, John Valentine (chair@BDHS.co.uk) or Graham Taylor (membership@bdhs.co.uk) for any specific questions.



[Other News](#)

Bags 2 School



The next roadside collection is 21st March. The volunteers who help with bags2school have raised an amazing £32,642.56 and saved 75,885kgs of clothes from landfill since it was started 13 years ago. We currently split the money raised three ways; St Johns, St Marys and Willink get a third share each.

We are looking for volunteers to help distributing the bags and then collecting them when full. No job takes longer than an hour and it's only three times a year so not at all onerous. Most people will have children, or know of people that have children, that will benefit from the money raised. Please do consider stepping forward. If you email petalclark@gmail.com we will be happy to share more details.

Mortimer Emporium

Mortimer Emporium is a new indoor village market held in St John's Hall. Our ambition when starting this business was to provide an event in which the community and local businesses could come together. The market offers a wide range of products as well as a cafe and an amazing atmosphere. Come and join us 11:00 – 3:00 on these Sundays:

20th February

15th May

20th March

12th June

17th April

17th July

For more information you can find us at [facebook.com/MortimerEmporium](https://www.facebook.com/MortimerEmporium) and www.Mortimer-emporium.co.uk

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; it has now been rolled into **"The Queens Platinum 70th Jubilee"** (not for profit) across Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th June 2022. Put the Date in your Diary for the extra special Bank Holiday weekend! Not to be missed on Mortimer Fairground.

On Thursday night an official Jubilee beacon will be lit to mark the start of an extra-long weekend of celebration. Organisers are rumoured to be planning a fabulous evening of drag, burlesque and cabaret on Friday before the main event begins on Saturday.

The Royal Occasion will be Free Entry with a varied mix of music, food outlets, licensed bars, refreshments, classic funfair, 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 here in Britain) for the children and competitive adults, tug-o-war, sack race, egg & spoon race, wheelbarrow and many more.

It will round off with a sensational line-up of bands on a massive open-air stage organised by MML. It's going to be a BIG ONE on a special weekend for the village of Mortimer, with a firework display wrapping up the party on Saturday evening. For more information, visit www.mortimervillage.org.uk

MVP Affiliate Directory

The aim of MVP Affiliated group membership is to promote community cooperation and cohesion as well as providing local groups with a number of practical benefits such as: borrowing MVP equipment, laminating & photocopying, communications through use of the village website, this newsletter and Facebook, and use of our

prominent notice board outside the Co-Op. We can also offer promotional support via CafeB in Burghfield – using their 'rolling screen' on display in the café.

If you have an interest and would like to start a club, or are part of an existing group and would like to find out more then please contact MVP on affiliates@mortimervillage.org.uk

Affiliate	Telephone	Email
1st Mortimer Guides	07886 524611	mortimerguides@hotmail.com
1st Burghfield & Sulhamstead Scouts	07867 800335	burghfieldgsl@outlook.com
1st Mortimer Brownies	933 3153	firstmortimerbrownies@hotmail.co.uk
1st Mortimer Scouts	933 2147	Info@1st-Mortimer.org.uk
1st Ufton Nerve Scout Group	07793 190863	cathryn@uftonscouts.com
Age Concern	07852 557733	tubbs66.tb@googlemail.com
Alfred Palmer Memorial Field Trust		trustees@alfredpalmermemorialfield.org.uk
B&M Volunteer Bureau	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 205224	gareth.green@gmail.com
Crafters Club		d.stroud2010@btinternet.com
Made in Mortimer	933 1623	wellandemma@hotmail.com
Mortimer & Burghfield Toy Library	07733 297741	janetrintoul@hotmail.com
Mortimer (St. Johns) Village Hall		brianthatcher@btinternet.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

Affiliate	Telephone	Email
Mortimer Cricket Club		adrsmith@gmail.com
Mortimer Dramatic Society	0778 533 3321	info@mortimer-dramatic.org
Mortimer FC	07786 631027	mortimerfootballclub@gmail.com
Mortimer Life	07447 557557	info@mortimer.life
Mortimer Local History Group	933 1310	munsonsinnmortimer@yahoo.co.uk
Mortimer Methodist Church	933 3689	daphneycooney@gmail.com
Mortimer Music Live CIC	07779 939495	info@mortimermusiclive.co.uk
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 617665	ngmunson@yahoo.com
Mortimer West End Village Hall	07780 688771	mwevh@outlook.com
Royal British Legion	07852 557733	tubbs66.tb@googlemail.com
Save the Children - Kennet Branch B25		jclaredowney@gmail.com
South Berks Concert Band	07759 967474	southberksconcertband@yahoo.com
Stratfield Mortimer Benefice	933 3704	admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk
Stratfield Mortimer Fairground Charity		gemmademelza@gmail.com
The Hurst Singers	933 2805 07882 40433	mariatseasons@aol.com
The Oaks Childcare Clubs CIC	0118 933 2960	office@theoakschildcare.co.uk
Together in Mission	07748 686615	info@togetherinmission.org.uk
West Berkshire Walking 4 Health	07770 918910	gb@atpps.com
Willink PTA		garry.strange1973@gmail.com

MVP Contact Details

Chairman	Doug Overett	chairman@mortimervillage.org.uk 07738 470870
Vice Chairman	Julia Meadows	juliameadows@outlook.com
Secretary	Gael Nicholls	gaelnicholls@yahoo.co.uk
Treasurer	Ali Richardson	alison.richardson1964@gmail.com
Affiliates Secretary	Julie Carter	affiliates@mortimervillage.org.uk

MVP AGM will be held on Tuesday 8th March, prior to our normal committee meeting (and currently being held via Zoom). As with all meetings this is open to the public so if you'd like to attend please email the chairman for the link.

If you have any comments about this newsletter please contact newsletter@mortimervillage.org.uk

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