

# October 2022 NEWSLETTER



Mortimer Village Partnership  
Enriching Village Life

## Sharing Some Autumn Warmth

At the time of preparing this edition of this MVP newsletter, the country is in mourning for the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and thus our thoughts are very much with the sombre mood of the nation and also the challenges that face the country as we head into the winter months.

As a village, reflecting upon the death of our sovereign, we must look back and be grateful that we had the chance in early summer to celebrate her extremely long reign. Regardless of any individual's feeling about monarchy, the events of the SMPC Jubilee Celebrations brought our community together in a spectacular way.

Moving forward, that positive, active community spirit is very much what MVP wants to continue to foster through the many events, activities and initiatives that we support, collaborating with all the various organisations in and around Mortimer. As during the COVID pandemic, we are looking at how the community might support those who may be struggling with the massive increases in the cost of living, as well as providing some opportunities through Lunch Clubs, Theatre, Panto to help distract people even for a short while from their day-to-day difficulties.

As always, the MVP, a not-for-profit organisation, works hard to keep the costs of all activities as low as possible to ensure that all sectors of our community can participate. Our wonderful affiliates who contribute in many and varied ways do the same and thus support us in developing a busy and rich village life.

With autumn now upon us, wrap up warm and enjoy this lovely season and all that will be going on in Mortimer.

**Doug Overett**  
*Chairman*



The Queen's Award  
for Voluntary Service

All this and more available here: [www.mortimervillage.org.uk](http://www.mortimervillage.org.uk)

## Keeping Warm in Mortimer

Everyone is aware of very large energy price rises and more to come; at the time of writing, some details of help from the government have emerged but not everyone is clear if they will benefit. The worry that some of our residents will not be able to heat their homes been raised with MVP and on local Facebook groups. Discussion has taken place on ideas of how the community might help. The matter has been raised at the Parish Council and was discussed at length at a recent MVP committee meeting. MVP has decided to try to ascertain the scope of the issue and to collect practical ideas.



To that purpose we are asking people who may have difficulties with heating their homes to respond to a very brief (3 questions) survey to help us ascertain how much, if any, demand there will be for places to go to keep warm. It is totally anonymous and we are just collecting numbers. Please use this link:

<https://www.mortimervillage.org.uk/survey/keeping-warm>.

If you have practical ideas about what could be done and can get involved please email [newsletter@mortimervillage.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@mortimervillage.org.uk)

## Visiting Theatre

**Nelly Bly came to see....**

Another fabulous, travelling theatre show came to Mortimer on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, with the bonus of the home-grown, highly talented, Laura Hannawin. Nellie Bly was a one-woman show all about the true grit of a female pioneering journalist, who in the late 1800s, made such a difference to the world she lived in.

MVP received many rave reviews after the evening. One from Gael Nicholls, said "We are so spoilt to have these quality, polished and amazing shows come to our village. Despite them being small and travelling, they could still certainly hold their own on any stage in London. Outstanding - thank you so much to all the MVP organisers and the Nellie Bly writer, director, Laura and crew. Remarkable!"

**And the next production is ...**

As the nights draw in, MVP is delighted to partner with Applause Rural Touring to bring you a fresh, funny, new show from acclaimed company, Gonzo Moose.

**Is that a Bolt in Your Neck?** is a comedy horror which takes us into the world of Dr Chekhov, a brilliant and reclusive scientist, working in secret in his isolated castle. The villagers below live in dread. Strange shadows can be seen at the windows, and every night, blood curdling cries of pain can be heard. What is Dr Chekhov doing? What hideous experiments is he perpetrating? What unimaginable horror might emerge from his laboratory?



All will be revealed in this wonderfully inventive and gripping show featuring three fearless actors, switching wildly between myriad roles, all packed into 75 minutes of fast-paced fun and thrilling action.

"Grabs you by the lapels and drags you along for a ridiculous, riotous and genuinely inspired ride" What's On Stage ★★★★★

Suitable for audiences from ages 8 to 80. Tickets are £15. Doors open at 7pm and the fun starts at 7.30pm. Licensed bar available. Tickets can be booked via this link: <https://thelittleboxoffice.com/mortimervillage/> a booking fee is payable.

## Scarecrow Trail



Looking for an excuse to get some fresh air, have a walk and perhaps dress up early for Halloween?

The scarecrow trail is back and will run from Saturday 22nd to Sunday 30th October, over the half-term break.

This year, the makers are busy creating a **Spooktacular** trail for you to follow.

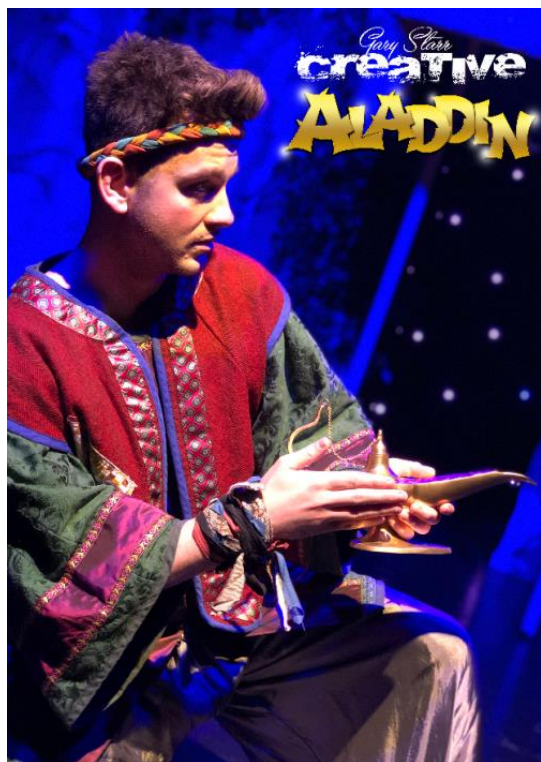
Scarecrows will be lurking, waiting to make you laugh as well as to give you the shivers.

Maps at £1.50 will be available from local outlets and on-line here

<https://www.mortimervillage.org.uk/Scarecrow-Trail/SCT2022> the week before the trail.

Look out for more details coming soon and join the trail... IF YOU DARE!

## Panto



Get ready, it's almost time to book your panto tickets! Oh, yes it is!

MVP welcomes back touring theatre company Gary Starr Pantomimes to Mortimer on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December. This year's show, Aladdin, will be performed at 2pm and 4:30pm at St John's Hall, West End Road. This is a brand-new show full of festive spirit, laughter and comedy. It is suitable for all ages (3 – 95 years) and is the perfect family event this Christmas. Join Aladdin and Princess Jasmine on their missions to defeat the evil Abanazer with the help of the Genie and the hilarious Widow Twanky.

These are usually some of the

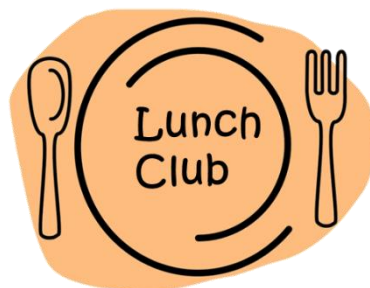
hottest tickets in town! Early Bird Tickets available until 31st October with savings of up to 20%. From 31st October tickets will be £15 for adults and £9.50 for under 17's. Booking fee payable.

There will be a licensed bar. To book your tickets visit:

<https://thelittleboxoffice.com/mortimervillage/>

## Mortimer Lunch Club

Mortimer Lunch Club meets twice a month (2nd and last Thursday from noon to 1.15/1.30ish) for a light, hot lunch in warm surroundings with the chance to meet up with old friends and to make new ones. We even have Handybus transport available. If you would like to come along please call Rebecca on 07515775464.



## MVP Affiliate News

### Mortimer & Burghfield Volunteer Bureau

Our AGM was held on Wednesday 7th Sept. at 19:00 and was well attended. We welcomed Dale Thomas, Bev White, Dave Fisher, John Bagshaw and Erle Minnhinnick as new drivers since the last AGM, as well as Linda Frewing to the office staff. We lost a similar number of drivers over the same period, so the number of drivers available remains constant, however the demand on our services increases as the NHS struggles to clear the backlog of appointments. I must therefore repeat the need for more drivers, we can never have enough!



The Treasurer, Belinda Chaplin, reported that we are financially stable and the grant from West Berks Council was received again this year, enabling us to continue with no changes to our operational procedures or contributions. Gilbert Bedford, our Organiser, detailed the number of calls, drives, and new clients that we have seen over the previous period which shows that demand for our services remains strong and growing.

I would like to thank everyone involved in the Bureau for their continuing support, without which we could not function. Our driver Dale Thomas has raised £4,360 for the Ollie Young Foundation and I would like to congratulate him on a fantastic effort climbing the three peaks and then walking 216 miles home from Snowdon.

Steve Carter Chair

### Mortimer West End Cricket Club

The Club will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> years since it was re-formed in 1973 next season and so it is fitting that both our Saturday teams will be playing their cricket in a higher League come April next year. Our 1<sup>st</sup> XI won the Berkshire Premier Division, by winning 13 of 18 matches this season, the first time since 2012, with a youthful team including many who had come through your youth teams.



Next season we are playing in the Berkshire, Chilterns and Mid Bucks League, and hope this may attract some new players to the Club so that we can continue to grow, and local lads can play at the highest level possible. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, which featured 4 father and son partnerships during the season, also won BCL Division 2 to be promoted for next year. Seeing 15 year olds come into the team and, supported by seasoned campaigners, perform exceptionally well, has been particularly pleasing this year.

The club aims to be inclusive and is keen to continue to provide a warm welcome for new members. Our Youth section is growing, and our recent Summer Camps were a real success. Next season we will run teams at U9, U11, U13 and U15 and will again provide an All Stars programme for 5-8 year olds. We would love to establish a girls/Women's section. Presently we have several girls who have trained with us at U9 (an age group which allows girls up to U11 as at 31 August the prior year to play) so a few extra girls in this group would enable us to enter a League team for next season. Along with players, scorers, umpires and coaches are also more than welcome to come along and get involved.

Off the field we have enjoyed a great summer of post-COVID return to all the social aspects of a Cricket Club and with our 50<sup>th</sup> year ahead we'll be planning plenty more fun at MWECC in 2023.

If you are interested in joining in please do contact us – the earlier the better so we can plan for 2023. [mweccchairman@outlook.com](mailto:mweccchairman@outlook.com) or [mweccsecretary@outlook.com](mailto:mweccsecretary@outlook.com) are the best contacts.

## Stratfield Mortimer Benefice

St. John's Church, Mortimer, cordially invites you to our

### CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday November 19<sup>th</sup>

10:00-14:00

At St John's Church, Mortimer

There will be a home and garden stall, a chocolate tombola, a raffle and jams & chutneys to buy.

Coffee, tea, soup for sale.

Donations to the stalls are welcome

Please leave at the back of the church on Sunday morning or at 6pm on Friday 18<sup>th</sup>.





## Wellbeing Walks

Wellbeing Walks (the new name for Walking for Health) is a national scheme, run by West Berkshire Council for the district, and by a small group of volunteers locally.

We go out walking every Tuesday and there are three different walks, to suit differing abilities, each starting from the Community Centre car park opposite the Horse & Groom and led by a trained walk leader:

- 09:45 – the longer walk of around 5 miles taking 1¾ to 2 hours;
- 10:00 – the regular walk of around the 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 Horse & Groom for coffee (or whatever) at about 11:30.



The walks offer 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). For more info, email Graham Bridgman: gb@atpps.com (07770 918910).

Wellbeing Walks overcome a recognised barrier to becoming more active by providing opportunities for social contact. Walking 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 Dramatic Society

Once again Mortimer Dramatic Society is putting on a production! As many of you will know we have had several disappointments in



Mortimer  
Dramatic Society

recent years when trying to get live performances back in the village, but, with all fingers crossed, it looks like we will be performing this year.

At present we are in full rehearsal mode with **Waiting for God**. This play had been developed from the popular '90s' sitcom starring Stephanie Cole, Graham Crowden and many more. It was adapted for stage in 2017 and is set in and around 'Bayview' retirement home. It contains all the favourite characters from the series and follows the antics of growing old disgracefully and of course the never-ending attempts to undermine the 'Bayview' manager Harvey Baines.

The dates for the show are the 21st, 22nd, 28th and 29th of October and the Box Office is already open. If you would like to book tickets, please go to our web site [www.mortimer-dramatic.org](http://www.mortimer-dramatic.org)

Whilst the parts for this production have been allocated, there is always room for old and new members to get involved, set build begins on Saturday October 8th at St Johns Hall at 8:00am and any help will be warmly welcomed, even if it's just morale support, making the tea, come along we are a welcoming group and to coin an old phrase, "your society needs you"!

If you have any queries, please go to our website to contact us and we will be only too pleased to help.

## Mortimer West End Village Hall

Forty teams set off from the Hall on 24<sup>th</sup> July to enjoy our Family Treasure Trail and Woodland Walk, returning to the hall to savour the BBQ and to finish off their Wordsearch and Anagram puzzles.

Then on 27<sup>th</sup> August, the Hall hosted the annual MWE & District Show. With well over 200 entries, there was lots to see, and about 150 people came to admire everyone's skills, as well as enjoy the delicious refreshments!





I am sure you were all also looking forward to our Quiz Night, but we have had to postpone that to the new year.

Don't forget that the hall is available for hire at very reasonable rates. 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. You can also enjoy Pilates, Zumba, and Calleva WI meetings at the Hall.

For more information: [www.facebook.com/mwevillagehall](https://www.facebook.com/mwevillagehall) [mwevhall@gmail.com](mailto:mwevhall@gmail.com) or 0118 970 0001.

## Baby and Toddler Group



We have been delighted to see so many familiar faces returning to the group at the start of the new term, along with some new families coming to find out what we're all about. We provide a safe, informal setting, a chance for Mums, Dads, Grandparents etc. and children to chat and forge new friendships.

### What will you find here?

Variety of toys and activities including some messy art and tuff tray play, aimed at children aged 0-5 yrs to encourage fun and social skills – each week is different! We have aprons but best not to bring little ones in their very best clothes.

A hot drink for you, and a healthy snack and water is provided for the children (please take care if your child has any allergies).

We have singing at the end of the session where everyone joins in...don't worry, no-one minds if you're out of tune!

### When and where is it?

Tuesdays 10am – 11.30am (term time), Methodist Church Hall

No need to book...just come along. Given the current economic climate with rising costs elsewhere, we are committed to keeping our charges as low as possible: £2.50 per session, then an additional 50p for any extra children over 12 months. We would love to welcome you to join us.

Contact [louise.overett@gmail.com](mailto:louise.overett@gmail.com), or [amanda.lowe44@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:amanda.lowe44@yahoo.co.uk)



## 1<sup>st</sup> Mortimer Guides

1<sup>st</sup> Mortimer Guides has places still available for 10–14 year olds, Thursday evenings 7- 8:30pm at the Scout Hut.

Brownies 7–10 year olds, is full but please register interest on the Girlguiding website: [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk)



Girlguiding

Rainbows 5–7-year-olds is unable to reopen due to lack of volunteers. Support to join/help/lead is available from our local District Commissioner.

All enquiries/registering interest can be done through the Girlguiding website and a local contact will be alerted.

## Save the Children Kennet Branch



We want to say a huge thank you to all those that came along to Midsummer Music this year and to all those that helped us run the event. For those that haven't been, Midsummer Music is a live music and entertainment event held in a beautiful garden setting in

Burghfield Village in midsummer. We raised £3,562.31 this year. These funds have been sent to head office to help Save the Children keep children safe, healthy, and learning in the UK and around the world. The date for next year's Midsummer Music is Sunday June 25<sup>th</sup> 2023, please make a note of this and add it to next year's calendar.

We hope you enjoyed our check-out Jumble Sale on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September and grabbed a bargain. We have three check-out Jumble Sales coming up in 2023. The dates for these are Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> April, Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July and Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September. We are changing venue to Mortimer Methodist Hall for these sales.

Our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/StcKennetBranch>

## The Hurst Singers

The Hurst Singers are back in good voice! Our four-part (SATB) choir is back in force after the COVID restrictions; we are really pleased to be back. We sing for fun, and during the pandemic when we tried Zoom rehearsals (with limited success!), we realised how much we missed singing in person - and in public. We were delighted to have our first post-COVID live concert at St Mary's Church in Burghfield on June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The church has a lovely acoustic and lots of space, so it was a joy to sing there

We also had our largest-ever audience on Mortimer Fairground during the Jubilee Weekend (despite wind and sound-system issues meaning you might not have heard us at our best!). We are aiming to go back to two live concerts a year – maybe in more than one venue each time, so there will be plenty of space for audiences. Look out for local publicity and come and see what we do.

We have many new members from the Mortimer, Burghfield Common and Tadley area and we meet for regular rehearsals at St John's Hall in Mortimer on Thursday



evenings. We sing a wide repertoire of music from Bach to Adele, via musicals, spirituals, sacred music and opera, so there is something for everyone.

Singing is really good for physical and mental health. We are a friendly group and are always keen to have enquiries about joining. We especially welcome new men's voices (visit our website for details <http://thehurstsingers.org>). Being able to sing in tune is pretty important, but we can cater for less experienced people with who are keen to learn, or those whose music reading skills need a bit of a refresh.

## Mortimer Football Club

Mortimer Football Club has six teams playing on the hallowed turf of the Alfred Palmer Memorial Field - an under 12 and under 16 youth team, men's Saturday first & development sides, men's Sunday morning team, and our ladies on Sunday afternoons.

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](mailto: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 Pre-School



Back to Pre School! Mortimer Pre School are back in the swing of things after a nice long summer break. During the summer term the children enjoyed lots of play in our garden and water experiments, which was needed in the hot weather.

Nineteen of our former Pre-Schoolers are having their first days in school as you read this. We wished them the very best of luck at their leavers party. Although we'll miss them, we

know they are going to be great!

We are excited to start the new term with new joiners and their families, as well as our returning children. This term we have lots of exciting plans and to start the term we will be looking at topics such as Harvest and Looking after our planet. The children are also enjoying weekly PE sessions with Sporty Sarah; a great opportunity for them to learn some new skills.

Aside from our busy weeks of activities, it won't be long until we start planning our Christmas festivities! If you are interested in a place for your child at Mortimer Pre School, please do get in touch at [admissions@mortimerpreschool.org.uk](mailto:admissions@mortimerpreschool.org.uk) or visit our website [www.mortimerpreschool.org.uk](http://www.mortimerpreschool.org.uk)

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

Beavers have been living up to their motto of Busy and Bright, enjoying woodland walks, planting sunflowers and making soldiers, corgis and bunting (used with great effect during the Queen's Jubilee parade), as well as basic cooking, making bird feeders and the Big Birdwatch weekend.





Cubs have been enjoying the great outdoors with visits to our local woodlands learning tracking skills and playing fun games. They have also been learning camp fire lighting skills then used to great effect during our fantastic Camp at Beale Park entitled *A Right Royal Camp*. It included a royal afternoon tea with lots of cake, paddle-boarding, canoeing, pond-dipping, archery, followed by a celebration BBQ with an enthusiastic and loud

campfire. They also took part in the annual Village Spring Clean collecting an astonishing amount of rubbish.

Scouts have been working hard on navigation and working towards their Bronze and Silver awards: use of hand-axe and knife, fire-lighting, cooking, wood preparation and a fun camp-oven bake-off competition. They attended the Right Royal Camp as a service crew, providing excellent support to the leaders. Several evenings were spent on the lake at Beale Park gaining their British Canoeing Paddle Start certificates and they will soon be gaining the next award, the Paddle Safer certificate, which we hope will lead to a water-based expedition.



Rovers have been working on improving our HQ; work begins in earnest very soon on storage and toilet facilities. In July they travelled to the Brecon Beacons where in a candle-lit chapel, 5 Rovers were invested into the Crew. This is a very solemn ceremony based on traditions going back to the Knights of Old during which each gives a promise to a lifetime of service to others. We enjoyed a gourmet open-fire meal to celebrate as well as some spectacular hiking.

If your son or daughter would like to join in the fun, please get in touch by emailing [info@1st-mortimer.org.uk](mailto:info@1st-mortimer.org.uk)

Beavers Year 1 to 2

Cubs Year 3 to 6

Scouts Year 7 onwards



## South Berks Concert Band

2022 has been a successful year so far for the band, with a series of popular performances – both indoors and outside. After such a difficult couple of years, it has been great to perform once again in front of large and appreciative audiences.

It has also been a period of growth, as we have had six new members join us so far this year. We are still looking for a new Trombone player, so if you know of anyone then please get in touch! We have also had a young Ukrainian Sax player join us recently, which is enabling him to gain experience of playing in a large band, and welcoming him into the community.

We are constantly trying to expand our reach into the local community, and are keen to develop our “friends and followers” contacts – do get in touch if you would like to be added to our email list to find out about forthcoming concerts. We are also reaching out to anyone who can help us get the word out about events (we already share to MVP Facebook page), or offer to give a lift to someone that would like to come to a concert who has limited access to transport (Handybus already provides some transport).

After returning to Mortimer for our rescheduled Autumn concert on 15th October, our final concert for the year will be **Burghfield & Mortimer's Christmas Concert at St Mary's Church in Burghfield on 3rd December**. More details will follow nearer the time. 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.

Email: [SBCB\\_Music@yahoo.com](mailto:SBCB_Music@yahoo.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/SouthBerksConcertBand](https://www.facebook.com/SouthBerksConcertBand)

Website: [www.southberksmusic.org.uk](https://www.southberksmusic.org.uk)

Ticket booking: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/south-berks-concert-band>



## Crafters Club

Crafters group continues to meet with old and new members; it's a lovely, informal group, lots of chat with tea and biscuits. Part of the group still make quilts for Project Linus, 10 years now - so many quilts. Everybody is welcome to craft or just chat and drink tea!

We meet 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month 1:30 – 3:30pm at the Methodist Church Hall, West End Road. We look forward to seeing you.

Information from [d.stroud2010@btinternet.com](mailto:d.stroud2010@btinternet.com)

## Burghfield Camera Club

Burghfield Camera Club start their new season with an exciting programme focusing on developing photographic skills. Join us at our fortnightly meetings for talks, workshops, competitions, outings, and discussions.



Check out our programme and details: [www.burghfieldcameraclub.co.uk](http://www.burghfieldcameraclub.co.uk)

Or if you would like to come along and try us out, email us at [burghfieldccsec@gmail.com](mailto:burghfieldccsec@gmail.com)

## Mortimer 2012 WI

By the time this Newsletter goes to press Mortimer 2012 WI will have celebrated its 10th birthday and what a ten years it has been! Numerous cakes baked to support MVP events, scarecrows created - our Pinocchio now resides at the Alexander Devine Children's Hospice at Maidenhead, some of our members judged the Bake Off Competition at St Mary's School and we have supplied 1343 Emergency Wash Packs to the Royal Berks Hospital, 551 of them during COVID. We have had a variety of speakers telling us about places and events far and wide. Closer to home we even had a private visit to Stratfield Saye House amongst other places.

**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN

What do the next ten years hold? Well, we are now fully up and running after COVID with an interesting programme of speakers planned for next year. Our groups are now meeting regularly and are well-supported. We've had some lovely monthly walks and lunches and the sun even shone on our Garden Party. Do come along and give us a try. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Community Centre opposite the Horse and Groom. You will be assured of an interesting evening and a very warm welcome.

## Mortimer Bell Ringers

### Tolling of Bells for Queen Elizabeth and the Ellacombe Hammer



Many will have heard the bells of St John's and St Mary's ringing on the day of Queen Elizabeth's funeral. Indeed, we think it was the first time all three towers of the benefice (including Padworth) had been rung at the same time. They were rung for an hour before the start of the funeral.

St John's was ringing what is known as Methods on muffled bells. Here one side of the clapper is covered with a leather pad to give a muted strike and all six bells are rung by the Band. This required 11 ringers.

At Padworth, a single bell (the tenor) was tolled, especially slowly for the occasion. It was also on a muffled bell. Tolling slowly is quite difficult as the bell must be delicately balanced for a few seconds between each time it tolls. Three ringers took it in turns.

At St Mary's a regular tolling of the tenor bell was rung for the hour at 10, and later 15, second intervals. The accuracy of the striking was achieved using an 'Ellacombe Hammer' which was re-fitted to St Mary's tower around 5 years ago. The Ellacombe hammer was invented by a Revd. Ellacombe in 1821 whilst curate at St Mary's Church, Bitton. It means the bells can be sounded without the skill of ringing the bell. It is said he devised the mechanism so that the bells could be rung by a trusted person without involving a band of "unruly and perhaps drunken ringers".

Now the Mortimer Band is not an unruly group, despite retiring to the pub after practice night, but the mechanism is now unusual having fallen out of fashion across many churches. Something that sets St Mary's apart from most other bell towers.

## Belle Canto Trio

We very much enjoyed entertaining the ladies of Bramley WI at their birthday party in July, as well as performing at Silchester Church.



We are now looking forward to a number of engagements over the coming months. On 15<sup>th</sup> October we will be opening the Tadley Autumn Arts Festival at St Mary's, Tadley, with a concert from 11:30 am – 12:00 noon. We were also pleased to be asked to join Reading Male Voice Choir as their guest

artistes for their concert on 12<sup>th</sup> November at Greyfriars Church in Reading, and then on 10<sup>th</sup> December we will be giving a Christmas concert at Shinfield St Mary. In between we will be adding to the celebrations for a diamond wedding anniversary, providing some entertainment for the volunteers at Reading Minster before they set to work dressing the Christmas tree, and taking part in the Adventfeier at the German Church in Reading. So we have a busy few months ahead.

Details of our concerts are at [www.facebook.com/bellecantotrio](https://www.facebook.com/bellecantotrio) and [www.bellecanto.uk](http://www.bellecanto.uk) We hope to see you there!

## Burghfield & Mortimer Handybus

The Burghfield and Mortimer Handybus is continuing to provide transport for our elderly and less able members of the Parish in our two specially-adapted, easy-access minibuses. 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.

Last month we even managed to fit in time to take a number of Ukrainian families to a day out at Legoland, Windsor. We were happy to provide the transport for what was a most enjoyable day out for some of our special guests living in Mortimer and Burghfield.

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 email: [thehandybus@gmail.com](mailto:thehandybus@gmail.com)

## 1<sup>st</sup> Burghfield & Sulhamstead Scout Group

1st Burghfield & Sulhamstead Scouts are back to international Camps!

At the end of July, 29 Explorers and Scouts travelled for over 24 hours to represent our local community at Spejdernes Lejr (The Danish Jamboree), whilst we spent all week trying to describe to people where we lived based on London and Manchester, we did successfully teach our Danish host group how to pronounce Burghfield!

Our young people got stuck into a range of activities such as the "friendship award", which got them doing everything from decoding messages to learning traditional Turkish dances! Other days saw the young people racing up trees, digging holes in the sand to crawl through or even 3D printing phone stands! One evening we hosted over 200 people at an international campfire, built by 2 of our own Explorers and led by one of our very own leaders. Another evening saw games of Uno between the Danish Scouts and Burghfield Scouts, obviously there was lengthy debate about the rules!





On Friday, we took on Copenhagen! We visited the little mermaid statue, Danish War Museum and the Copenhagen lido. Everyone had a great day exploring Copenhagen and doing a bit of shopping!

My favourite thing was watching the sunrise over the jamboree site on the last morning. It was truly magical and beautiful! All the leaders are really proud of how our young people represented 1st Burghfield & Sulhamstead Scouts and our community at the Jamboree, in all the countries we stopped in (6 each way for anyone wondering!) and everywhere else they went.

We are looking for volunteers to join our team, to find out more email [burghfieldgsl@outlook.com](mailto:burghfieldgsl@outlook.com) or go to [www.1stbands.org](http://www.1stbands.org)

## Together In Mission

TiM Friends and Crossroads Church hosted local Ukrainian families for afternoon tea at Burghfield Village Hall one Sunday in August. Our volunteers served the teas and the children enjoyed playing with the toys on loan from Mortimer Toy Library. About 32 people enjoyed the afternoon together which continued on the Burghfield Recreation Ground afterwards. Thank you to Joy Davies for the delicious cakes, Raj at Nisa Burghfield for the supplies, Mortimer Toy Library and, most of all, our wonderful TiM Friends volunteers.



## More Volunteers Please!



We have a lot of local people who would welcome a volunteer to visit them once a week for an hour. Both male and female volunteers are urgently needed. If you can help please get in touch with Bev. You could really make a difference!

Bev French, TiM Friends Coordinator : 07748 686615 : [bevfrench6@gmail.com](mailto:bevfrench6@gmail.com)

**Now Open 9:30am -1:00pm  
Mondays and Wednesdays  
at Burghfield Methodist Church Hall**

A stylized, handwritten-style logo for 'Café B' in black ink.

There will be an Energy Crisis Drop-in session from 11am on Monday 7th November and 5th December for people who are looking for some help, advice or support.

We always have a good selection of home bakes and the full range of barista-style coffees, hot chocolate drinks and of course freshly brewed teas. Ask for a loyalty card – 5 hot drinks and the 6th is free

<https://www.facebook.com/CommunityCafé B/>

Alex Lines, Manager Café B [cafeb@togetherinmission.org.uk](mailto:cafeb@togetherinmission.org.uk)

**We value your support of Together in Mission via 'Local Giving' at:**

[localgiving.org/charity/tim/](https://localgiving.org/charity/tim/)

Together in Mission Registered charity number: 1135307

Registered office: 16 Goodwood Close, Burghfield Common, Reading, RG7 3EZ

## Mortimer Surgery Patients Participation Group

There are currently high levels of staff sickness in the Practice which reduces the number of available appointments for patients. Meanwhile the GPs are finding the workload challenging, handling some 50 patients per day.

To reduce the impact on surgery appointments the following steps have been taken; additional staff recruited e.g. Pharmacist, Social Subscriber, Paramedic; Nursing resources increased; Surgery Staff advised to wear face masks. Sadly, too many patients are forgetting their appointments, causing a huge waste of time for the doctors.

All patients are reminded to cancel in advance if they cannot attend on time.

Despite these challenges, the surgery plans to have delivered all Flu and COVID vaccinations (as appropriate for the patient) during October using the facilities at the Willink School. Invitations to attend the school will be sent out accordingly.

## Mortimer Greening Campaign

### REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT – SAVE MONEY

This Parish Council and community-led initiative is about working together to conserve and protect the environment we are so lucky to live in. It works by creating and sharing small steps we can each take that, collectively, make a real difference.

These small, everyday steps in our homes, reduce the amount of energy we use and create a win/win because:

- less CO2 is released into the atmosphere
- we cut the cost of our energy bills

If you are a Community Group Leader or someone who would really like to help take this great initiative forward, or would simply like more information:

Visit our website: [www.stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk/what-we-do/greening-mortimer](http://www.stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk/what-we-do/greening-mortimer)

Email: [greeningmortimer@stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk](mailto:greeningmortimer@stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk)

Call: 0118 933 19552



### 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](mailto:affiliates@mortimervillage.org.uk)

Affiliate	Telephone	Contact Email
1st Burghfield & Sulhamstead Scouts	07867 804441	<a href="mailto:burghfieldgsl@outlook.com">burghfieldgsl@outlook.com</a>
1st Mortimer Brownies	933 3153	<a href="mailto:firstmortimerbrownies@hotmail.co.uk">firstmortimerbrownies@hotmail.co.uk</a>
1st Mortimer Guides	07886 524611	<a href="mailto:mortimerguides@hotmail.com">mortimerguides@hotmail.com</a>
1st Mortimer Scouts	933 2147	<a href="mailto:Info@1st-Mortimer.org.uk">Info@1st-Mortimer.org.uk</a>

Affiliate	Telephone	Contact Email
1st Ufton Nervet 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
Bags2School		petalclark@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		burghfieldccsec@gmail.com
Burghfield Santas	07557 205224	gareth.green@gmail.com
Crafters Club		d.stroud2010@btinternet.com
Made in Mortimer		made.in.mortimer@gmail.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		mortimertoddlers@gmail.com
Mortimer Bell Ringers	933 2200	mortimerbellringers@gmail.com
Mortimer Cricket Club		adrsmith@gmail.com
Mortimer Dramatic Society	0778 533 3321	info@mortimer-dramatic.org
Mortimer Football Club	07786 631027	mortimerfootballclub@gmail.com
Mortimer Life	07447 557557	info@mortimer.life
Mortimer Local History Group	933 1310	munsonsinmortimer@yahoo.co.uk

Affiliate	Telephone	Contact Email
Mortimer Methodist Church	933 3051	daphnecooney@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	0118 970 0001	mwevh@gmail.com
MWE Cricket Club	07803 297 934	MWECCChairman@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**

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Doug Overett</b>	<a href="mailto:chair@mortimervillage.org.uk">chair@mortimervillage.org.uk</a> 07738 470870
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	<b>Julia Meadows</b>	<a href="mailto:juliameadows@outlook.com">juliameadows@outlook.com</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Gael Nicholls</b>	<a href="mailto:gaelnicholls@yahoo.co.uk">gaelnicholls@yahoo.co.uk</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Ali Richardson</b>	<a href="mailto:alison.richardson1964@gmail.com">alison.richardson1964@gmail.com</a>
<b>Affiliates Secretary</b>	<b>Rabia Anselm</b>	<a href="mailto:affiliates@mortimervillage.org.uk">affiliates@mortimervillage.org.uk</a>

*MVP committee meetings are held at 7:30pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month and are open to participation from anyone. Meetings are currently being held at the Horse & Groom Pub. If you would like to join us, use the Contact Us button on the website or contact any of the committee member to let us know you will be attending. Note there is no committee meeting in December.*

*If you have any comments about this newsletter please contact [newsletter@mortimervillage.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@mortimervillage.org.uk)*

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Protect & Invest – Independent Chartered Financial Planners, providing bespoke pension and investment advice on 01635 800 820.

[www.protect-invest.com](http://www.protect-invest.com)

BatesWilcox Mortgage Solutions, providing expert Independent Mortgage and protection advice on all types of borrowing needs on 0118 304 5300.

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

