

Mortimer Village Partnership

Annual General Meeting 2023

Chairman's Report

After a 2-year sabbatical it has been lovely In 2022 to reconvene our face-to-face monthly meetings, initially in the pub, which everyone has enjoyed. A big thank you to those who have latterly hosted meetings in their houses, and provided liquid refreshment to keep the conversations flowing.

Over the last year we have been able to resume all of our annual scheduled calendar events which have continued to be very popular. Our efforts to bring professional live theatre to the village saw us build on previous successes with Farnham Maltings and introduce new companies to Mortimer ... or Mortimer to new theatre companies, whichever way you look at it.

Bedivere Arts Company gave us a wonderful solo performance of Nellie Blye starring home grown talent, Laura Hannawin. With no new performances available from Farnham Maltings, we were able to utilise Sabina's insider knowledge and find the brilliant Gonzo Moose Company with Is that a Bolt in the Neck. Big thank you to Sabina for taking the lead on our Theatre offerings. Both performances have maintained the extremely high standard of local theatre that we have enjoyed for many years.

After early concerns about the Lunch Club numbers coming out of lockdown, with the introduction of the 2 course hot meals the numbers have averaged a solid 30 for each session. It is fair that some of these appear to be coming from wider afield and this is being watched carefully to be sure that we prioritise local resident. Guests recently enjoyed an extra lunch club session as a belated Xmas treat hosted and paid for in total by De Vere Wokefield Estate. The Lunch Club has been funded by grants from SMPC and also further funds were secured to pay for the Handybus. The total cost to all guests has thus remained at £2.00

The Spring Clean, Scarecrow Trail and Pantomime were all well supported albeit it often feels that it is getting harder to encourage people to commit to events and activities and seems that certainly the younger generation are either too business or perhaps live their lives on a "last minute.com" basis. Clearly this is difficult and a little stressful for those of us trying to arrange these activities.

The MVP played it's full part on the 70th Jubilee event, which was a great success and the combined efforts of the MVP to run the Food Concessions, Tea Tent and Market Row not only contributed enormously to the event but also contributed over £3500 profit to help with the event costs.

Rabia quickly took up the reins with our Affiliates and has maintained excellent support from them, evidenced in part by their contribution to our Newsletter, on which subject I should thank Julia Cooper for her continued amazing work in editing what has continued to be a very busy and professional looking publication. It is clearly welcomed by the village, if we go by the shouts that happen when people have not had theirs delivered.

Doug Overett
Chairman

March 2023