

February 2023 NEWSLETTER



Mortimer Village Partnership
Enriching Village Life

Busy, Busy, Busy..... lots happening in Mortimer in 2023!

There have now been multiple consultations for the Parish Council **Neighbourhood Development plan**... it's so important that everyone has their say, to make sure that we build the Mortimer we all want for the next 15 year.

Greening Mortimer has successfully launched a campaign to help steer environmental initiatives and it's great to see so many people supporting this. We are delighted that this year's Annual Spring Clean on Saturday 25th March will be a collaboration between Greening Mortimer and MVP.

On April 1st we have a new theatre production coming to the village. **"The Zoo that comes to you"** is aimed at the kids and features amazing puppetry.

And of course, there is **"The King's Coronation"**!

As everyone has now come to expect, Mortimer will celebrate, as only we can... while a little more low-key than the Jubilee, as directed by the Palace, Saturday 6th May will encapsulate the advertised 3 day program of Enjoying the Ceremony, Street Parties and Volunteering..... all in 1 day.... And if you're having a spring clean, make sure you keep your Jubilee, Burghfest or any other reusable drinks glasses for a discount at the beer tent!

More details in this newsletter, along with news from all of our amazing **Affiliates** of lots of other things to get involved in and watch for updates on our Website and Facebook page. If you'd like to get involved as part of MVP no matter how much or how little, come along to our **AGM** on **14th March**.

We hear so often of people who move to our village say they want to get involved in the community..... there is no shortage of opportunities.... just get in touch (contact details on back page)!

Have a great and busy Spring!

Doug Overett
Chairman



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

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

King Charles III Coronation Event



On Saturday 6th May, the residents of Mortimer, and the surrounding villages, are invited to come together, to watch and celebrate the coronation of King Charles III.

Hosted by Mortimer Village Partnership (MVP) and Mortimer Music Live (MML), the event will be held on Mortimer Fairground and entrance will be free of charge to all.

Please come along with your picnic and enjoy the Coronation and all its pageantry, which will be live-streamed to a large screen on the stage. The day will include: children's activities, a fun fair, market row, food concessions and a bar. In the evening, a live music event will be held on the stage, finishing with a firework display.

More details will follow. However, as always, we are looking for volunteers, entertainment acts and small local businesses for our market row.

If you are interested in helping, or taking part, email us as below, for more details:

General Inquiries: Coronation@mortimervillage.org.uk
Helping out: Volunteers@mortimervillage.org.uk
Entertainment: Coronation@mml.org.uk
Market Row: Events@mortimervillage.org.uk

Mortimer Village Partnership AGM

This will be held at the Methodist Hall on the **14th March**, prior to the monthly committee meeting. The AGM, like all MVP meetings, is open to all and is a perfect way to find out what MVP is doing and how it strives to meet its objective of "Enriching Village Life".

Visiting Theatre

MVP has been bringing professional theatre shows to the village for many years now and last October, we welcomed the wonderful Gonzo Moose to St John's Hall for "Is that a Bolt in Your Neck". Three actors and a rather brilliant set brought the world of Dr Chekhov, (a brilliant but reclusive scientist), his daughter, (a beautiful but lonely assistant) and an enquiring (and soon to be love-sick) Cambridge scholar to life. Fast-paced and very funny, we were treated to philosophical gargoyles, blood-thirsty villagers and the unfolding plot of Dr

Chekov attempting to resurrect his sorely-missed and very dead wife. This perfect Halloween treat featured clowning, audience interactions and some excellent visual gags and made for a very special and very funny night. It was great to see some younger members of the village enjoying the show and we hope to be able to offer more theatre that appeals to the 14-25 year olds in the future.

Aladdin zipped into town on his magic carpet on December 10th. Gary Starr Pantos once again delivered two wonderful packed-out performances of the well-known classic. A feast of traditional fare, our family audiences shouted and booed, cheered and sang and we hope MVP helped bring a little more festive cheer to round up 2022.

Our next offering will also be for family audiences:

'The Zoo That Comes To You' arrives at St John's Hall on **1st April 2023**. We join two animal enthusiasts as they share their love of and concern for animals of the world. Taking in animals that need respite, care or a temporary home, they have accidentally ended up with a sanctuary full of animals. Come and meet this eclectic group of charming yet cheeky animals, as they discuss their life experiences and the challenges they face. These animals have a lot to say and want to inspire people of all ages to take action, because they know small actions can make a big difference in the world.

Featuring puppetry, live music and playful characters, Scarlet Oak Theatre welcomes you to join the conversation about animal conservation.

Age Guidance: 5+ Though we warmly welcome younger audiences and unaccompanied grownups.

Running time: 60 minutes Tickets priced: £12 adults £8 under 17. Tickets can be booked by visiting <https://thelittleboxoffice.com/mortimervillage/>



Mortimer Spring Clean

The Annual Village Spring Clean has been going for 10 years and aims to give our lovely village a quick “spit and polish” as we head into the summer.

This year, in collaboration with Greening Mortimer, it will be held on **Saturday 25th March** from 1pm till 4pm, meeting on the Fairground opposite the Horse & Groom.

Litter pickers, gloves, rubbish sacks etc are provided... come early if there is a particular area, you'd like to get stuck into.

As always, we very much hope there is little to do, but, regrettably as in prior years, we will amass a sizeable pile for West Berks Council to come and collect. Look out for posters and Facebook / website announcements to confirm details.

MVP Affiliate News

Mortimer Bell Ringers

Ring for the King with Mortimer Bellringers



Would you like to help ring the church bells of Mortimer to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III on 6th May?

We are keen to invite any adult in Mortimer and surrounding areas to join in this celebration. There is not long to go and it will require you to learn the basics of how to ring a bell however this is a rare opportunity to be part of a very special event.

The time required to learn to ring varies but typically involves an hour or so of an evening each week or possibly shorter but more concentrated sessions depending on people's time constraints.

Our aim would be to get you to the stage of being able to ring the bell, aided and supported if necessary.

So, if you feel like you would like to give it a go, please email us on mortimerbellringers@gmail.com. Come and join us to mark this special day!

Mortimer Dramatic Society

Hello from Mortimer Dramatic Society, as I write this article we are in the final stages of putting on our January production, a



Mortimer
Dramatic Society

Murder Mystery Evening called "Murder By The Book". We have produced this type of event before, but what is very exciting for us is that the 'play' has been written by one of our own members, Alys Ware. So who knows we could all be watching the first play of the next big thing in Drama!

After so much upheaval over the last few years it is great that we appear to be back to normal as far as putting on productions. Our last production Waiting for God was very well received, and it was heart-warming that after such a long absence we were able to entertain both old and new audiences. It appears that the return of our Dinner-Theatre evenings in January have been eagerly awaited as we are a 'sell out', no pressure on our new playwright!

Our next show will be May/June, the play yet to be decided, but please keep an eye on our website www.mortimer-dramatic.org for details regarding auditions etc. We are always looking to welcome new members. You may also like to follow us on Facebook; just search for Mortimer Dramatic Society.

As always should you have any queries, please contact us we'll be happy to help.

Mortimer Baby and Toddler Group

It has been wonderful to welcome back to so many familiar faces, together with some new families who have joined us this term. We are a volunteer-led group and aim to provide an informal, local, safe setting for parents/carers and children to chat, play and develop new friendships. No pre-booking is required, and we continued to keep charges as low as possible, to support accessibility for all.

We have been busy over the last few months and have even more fun filled sessions planned for this term!

Last year we were fortunate to receive a community grant from SMPC which enabled us to give our families an extra special Christmas Party. We enjoyed festive fun with 'Ellie the Elf,' dancing, games, and snow! 'Naughty, but nice' party food and every child received a gift.

Our newly purchased Xmas tree, lights and decorations also helped to set the festivities off beautifully.

A big thank you to SMPC from all of us at the Mortimer Baby and Toddler Group.



We ran a Christmas raffle, and funds raised meant we were able to buy an exciting space-themed children's tent, which, combined with other space toys and activities, has been really encouraging lots of lovely imaginative play.

What will you find at our group? A friendly welcome, tea & coffee, fun and educational toys, sensory and messy play, snack time, tidy up time, which the children love! And we finish with songs, all included in the cost*.

When and where is it? Tuesdays (term time) 10am – 11:30am at Mortimer Methodist Church Hall.

*Cost - £2.50 per parent & child. (Additional 50p for extra children over 12 months.) We accept cash and card.

Do come along and join us! If you have any questions about the group or want any information about joining us as a volunteer, then please contact us via our Facebook page.



Mortimer Tennis Club

Do you enjoy playing tennis? We are lucky to have two excellent courts on the Mortimer Fairground.

We are a friendly, sociable club of mixed abilities. Our most popular session is on Monday from 10:00 to 11:00am but the club does have other slots to choose from.

Dust off the racquet or take time out for an hour from a busy life. Come along and play a game or two to see if you would like to join us.

For contacting us, please email info@mortimertennisclub.co.uk or call Jean on 07768 171733 or Liz on 07710 495212.



Mortimer West End Cricket Club

This season the Club will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary since it was re-formed in 1973. Both our Saturday League teams won promotion in 2022 and we continue to seek new members to help us compete.

In 2023 our 1st team will be playing in the Berkshire, Chilterns and Mid Bucks League and our 2nd XI in Division 2 of the Berkshire League, while we have a full Sunday XI fixture list.

The club aims to be inclusive and is keen to continue to provide a warm welcome for new members.

Winter nets start on Monday 27th February and run until mid-April each Monday 8:30-9:30pm at Bradfield School. New joiners welcome.

Our Youth section continues to thrive and we will run teams at U9, U11, U13 and U15 in 2023, and will again provide an All Stars programme for 5-8 year olds beginning to play the game (<https://www.ecb.co.uk/play/all-stars>). Youth training (except All Stars) will commence in the week of 24th April. The cost for coaching and matches is £70 and we have kit available for those that need it.

We would also gladly welcome anyone keen to score or umpire.

Off the field with our 50th year ahead we'll be planning plenty more fun at MWECC in 2023 so come along and join in!!

If you are interested in any of the above please do contact us:

mweccchairman@outlook.com or mweccsecretary@outlook.com

Save the Children Kennet Branch



Thank you to everyone from Mortimer for supporting our events in 2022, with your support we were able to raise over £6500 for Save the Children.

Our Midsummer Music event returns on **Sunday 25th June** at the slightly later time of 12:30pm at Little Manor, Church Lane, Burghfield Village, RG30 3TG.

Midsummer Music is an afternoon of music and entertainment in a lovely garden setting. Our headliners, The Clive Fortune Big Band, will be entertaining us with a wide repertoire of big band classics and jazz standards including originals from the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s as well as more contemporary arrangements for big band. There'll be a licensed bar, real ale, a hog roast and raffles and, as a family friendly event, entertainment for children. Tickets are £12.50 in advance or £15 on the door and as always accompanied under 16s are free. Please save the date and see our Facebook page 'Save the Children Kennet Branch Events' for updates and details of how to book.

Our 'Check-out' jumble sales also return on the following dates in 2023, **Saturday 29th April, Saturday 29th July and Saturday 30th September**, the start time for all the sales is 10:30am. The concept is simple, all jumble items are 40p or 3 for £1. Entry is 20p. This year the sales will be at Mortimer Methodist Hall, West End Road, Mortimer RG7 3ST - there will be bargains. We also welcome jumble donations at the hall from 10am so it's a great way to re-home an item that's too good to throw away (please note we are unable to take items with a plug).

We'll also have a stall at the Burghfield May Fayre on **Sunday 21st May** and will be providing the refreshments at the Art Café, The Old Rectory Stables, High Street, Whitchurch on Thames, Reading, RG8 7DF on **15th April**.

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 25th, 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 who are keen to learn, or those whose music reading skills need a bit of a refresh.

Belle Canto Trio



It was the warmth of our audience's welcome that staved off the -4°C temperature outside at our main Christmas concert of 2022, where we were also delighted to welcome, as our special guest, the Deputy Mayor of Reading, Councillor Deborah Edwards.

We have a number of engagements lined up for 2023, although many of them are at private functions. However, we hope we might see you on 5th August, for a midday concert at Shinfield St Mary. Entry is free! Failing that, we will be singing at the Ship Inn Arts Centre at Ashford Hill at 3:00 pm on 14th October.

Details of our concerts are at www.facebook.com/bellecantotrio and www.bellecanto.uk We hope to see you there!

Mortimer 2012 WI



In October we celebrated our 10th birthday with a party and our past Presidents reminiscing about things that happened when they were in office. One thing that has played a huge part during all their Presidencies is the donation of 'Hospital Bags'. Members donate toiletries namely soap, flannels, tooth brushes, toothpaste, combs and razors and Anne Haines packs them into bags with a small get-well card and delivers them to RBH. They are then given to patients who have been admitted in emergencies with no opportunity to pack such essentials. During 2022 we donated 540 bags and received several messages of appreciation from grateful patients.

If you feel you would like to contribute too, please contact us on

Mortimer2012wi@berkshirewi.co.uk or leave a message on the MVP Facebook site and someone will get back to you. Likewise, if you would like to join us we meet on the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30 pm in the Community Centre opposite the Horse and Groom.



Crafters Club

The Craft group are knitting and crocheting blankets to give away to anybody who needs one to keep warm, if that's you, or you know of someone in need please, get in touch.

The group are now in our 12th year (would have been 14 but for COVID). We welcome new member crafters so why not pop in for a chat and cup of tea.

Contact Ann on 01189 331419.



South Berks Concert Band



2022 was a successful year for the band, with a series of well-received performances, both indoors and outside. We saw growth in numbers in the band too, with six new members joining during the year. We are still looking for another Trombone player, and also a Trumpet player, so if you know of anyone then please get in touch!

Did you know that we've been making music in the Reading and West Berkshire area for over 45 years?! Why not come and see us in action in our Spring Concert at The Link, Tadley Community Centre on 25th March, just a stone's throw from Mortimer. In addition to our usual wide selection of music, there will also be pieces performed by clarinet ensemble "No Strings Attached". Tickets are now available via TicketSource or by emailing the band, and will be available from The Baobab from 14th March. If you wish to find out more, do follow us on Facebook, look at our website or make contact with us via email.



We are constantly trying to think of ways to expand our reach into the local community and are keen to expand our "friends and followers", so do get in touch if you would like to be added to our email list. We will only contact you to let you know about our events during the year, usually just 3-4 emails per year.

Whether or not you are able to come to our Spring Concert, save the date for our Summer Concert, as we will be back at St John's Church in Mortimer on 1st July.

Email: SBCB_Music@yahoo.com

Website: www.southberksmusic.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SouthBerksConcertBand

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

Burghfield & Mortimer Handybus

The Burghfield and Mortimer Handybus is going from strength to strength with even more trips for our elderly and less able members of the community. The number of trips we are making and the number of passengers we are carrying has now increased to way over pre-COVID pandemic levels. Popular trips are to our local supermarkets and local Social Clubs. Both of our specially adapted easy-access minibuses are busy most days of the week. However we often have a few spare seats available on our shopping trips, so if you are interested in a door-to-door transport service to the local supermarket please contact us, details as below.

Providing this valuable community service is dependent on volunteers. We are grateful that we have a small band of dedicated volunteers, but are always interested in anyone who might like to join us and volunteer to help our elderly residents get out and about. 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

Mortimer Pre-School



Last term was a busy one for Pre-School; the children created a wonderful display of poppies for Remembrance Day. There were lots of fun Christmas activities throughout December; the children decorated real Christmas trees, (donated to us by Rosebourne Garden Centre) and made Christmas puddings to take home. We had Christmas themed snacks, Tea for VIP's and Christmas Jumper Week.....it was feeling very festive in Pre-School!

We held a Christmas raffle; (thank you to those who kindly donated prizes) and the Pre-School supported the Loddon Valley LIONS Father Christmas float around Mortimer. All of these fundraising events are so important as all sums raised go towards PE sessions, new equipment and activities for the children.

Last term we held a book sale at St John's Hall, which went really well, and we are looking to hold another book sale around March/April time, so keep your eyes peeled for details of this.

This term started with a topic of Transport, talking about different ways to travel, and we are planning a trip out on the bus around Mortimer. The children have been practising their yoga poses and we are continuing with our weekly PE sessions with Sporty Sarah.

There are lots of fun things planned for the rest of this term and we are already starting to think about Easter activities!

If you are interested in a place for your child at Mortimer Pre School, please do get in touch at admissions@mortimerpreschool.org.uk or visit our website www.mortimerpreschool.org.uk, or better still, give us a call and come and visit us to see what we are all about.

Mortimer Surgery Patients Participation Group

Mortimer Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG) met on the 19th January. As announced previously Dr Gill French will be retiring at the end of March after almost 29 years, and she will be missed, however there should be sufficient cover at present and efforts are being made to recruit. Nursing staff are up to strength

and a second paramedic will start in April. New clinical workstations are being set up in the upstairs room to allow good working conditions.

The PPG are planning an early evening 'Health in the Future' event with the surgery team on 7th June in St John's Village Hall at which we will present and showcase the range of services available now and developing into the future. The programme will include talks from different specialists, including the new Social Prescriber, who will discuss the range of helpful organisations and groups that can be accessed for anyone who is struggling with personal or social issues. Full details and timings will be available later.

The PPG expressed their thanks to Graham Robinson for his valuable contributions to the group, in recent years as Vice Chair, as he is stepping down. John Bagshaw will take on this role.

It was agreed to restore activities and levels of communication now we are post pandemic, and a noticeboard will be reinstated in the waiting room. The website will also be updated with recent minutes and event announcements.

If anyone is interested in being involved in the PPG or with any questions for us should contact johnalbagshaw@btinternet.com. The next meeting is on 23rd March.

Mortimer Methodist Church

Many activities are up and running again after the COVID-enforced break, including:

Faith & Friends sessions, for pre-school children and their parents/grandparents/carers, which take place in the morning of the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month, in term time.

Who Let the Dads Out? sessions, for children up to the age of 9 and their dads/granddads/carers, which take place in the morning of the 2nd Saturday of the month.

Bric a Brac sales which take place in the mornings of the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month, the first in each month being accompanied by a Cake sale.

Since the beginning of January, the Church has been part of the national **Warm Spaces** initiative. On Thursdays, 9am – 12 noon, you are welcome to come along. Hot drinks are available. Mortimer Library is also part of the Warm Spaces scheme, and is open 1 – 5pm on Mondays, 9:30am – 5pm on Tuesdays, 1 – 6pm on Fridays, and 10am – 12:30pm on Saturdays.

Eco Church. Having achieved the silver award, we are working towards the gold award. Targets to be met are within the categories Teaching & Worship, Management of Church Buildings and Land, Lifestyles, and Global & Community Campaign.



Care at Christmas

Our thanks to West Berkshire Council who donated heated throws which we delivered to nine of our clients. We gave food parcels to 14 families over Christmas and 20 Ukrainian children were given Christmas presents thanks to Tesco Burghfield.



Eighteen brave folk came in from the icy cold weather in mid-December to join TiM Friends to sing carols in Sulhamstead Village Hall. Even though the heating was out of order we had blankets at the ready, plus warm drinks to raise a cheer.

There was a fun atmosphere at the Ukrainian children's Christmas Tree Party. We would like to thank the local villages for donating the presents.

Volunteers are always needed to provide weekly visits.

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

Café B

**at the Burghfield Methodist Church Hall
Mondays & Wednesdays 9:30am - 1:00pm
[https://www.facebook.com/CommunityCafé B/](https://www.facebook.com/CommunityCaféB/)**

Home bakes, barista-style coffees and a warm welcome

The TiM Café B Christmas gift appeal provided over 130 gifts which were given to children in Burghfield and Mortimer, as well as Sulhamstead & Ufton Nervet Primary School. Thank you to everyone for their generosity.

Would you like to join our team of volunteers? Contact us to find out more.

Alex Lines, Manager Café B cafeb@togetherinmission.org.uk

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

localgiving.org/charity/tim/

Together in Mission Registered charity number: 1135307

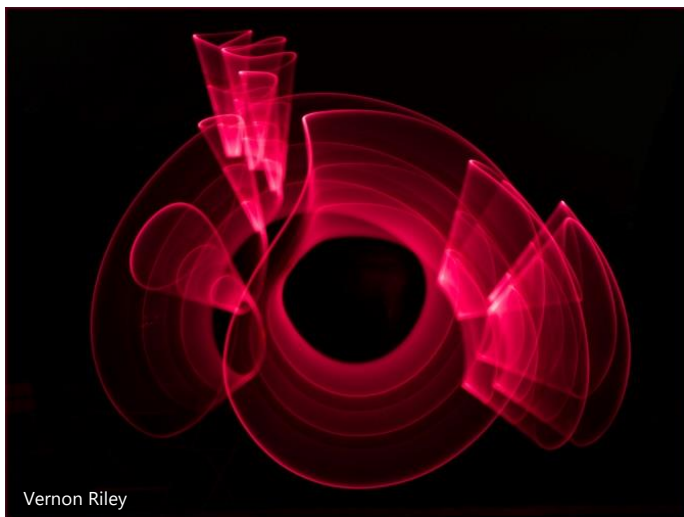
Registered office: 16 Goodwood Close, Burghfield Common, Reading, RG7 3EZ

Burghfield Camera Club

In November BCC members had their annual evening of light painting and fireworks event.

The evening started with light painting, using an LED torch and various tools, followed by excellent refreshments and finishing with an amazing firework display.

We have also enjoyed London Street photography, a guide to obtaining a distinction with the Royal Photographic



Society and now look forward to launching our new online photo forum, a presentation on landscapes, seascapes and drones, an outing for night photography in Reading, a challenge to capture motion and much more.

Join us at our fortnightly meetings for talks, workshops, competitions, outings, and discussions. All welcome, whether you use a mobile or a fancy camera.

Check out our programme and details: www.burghfieldcameraclub.co.uk

Or if you would like to come along and try us out, email us at burghfieldccsec@gmail.com

Mortimer West End Village Hall

We are continuing to improve the facilities at Mortimer West End Village Hall. Over the last few years the hall has been redecorated, the floor has been sanded and varnished, and new heating has been installed, with a fridge added to the cooker, microwave, urn and kettles already available in the kitchen. While outside, for security and safety, we have installed an electronic bollard and

motion-sensitive lighting. Then, in the autumn we had the grounds re-landscaped and we are currently looking into the possibility of installing LED lighting.



Our next events will be the **Woodland Walk on Sunday 16th July** and the **MWE & District Annual Show on Saturday 26th August**.

As always, don't forget that the hall is available for hire at very reasonable rates, starting at £3.50 per hour for hire of the small hall. 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.

For more information:

www.facebook.com/mwevillagehall

mwevhall@gmail.com or 0118 970 0001.

1st Burghfield & Sulhamstead Scout Group

As the nights got shorter the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers of 1st Burghfield and Sulhamstead Scouts got up to various weather-friendly activities! Various groups visited the new Theale Community Fire Station, where they got to use the pole and operate the fire hoses.

The new clip 'n' climb proved popular, with Pioneer Beavers conquering their fear of heights.

The Jaguar cubs visited the Reading Hindu Temple in November to learn about Hinduism, the associated rituals and to experience a service.

Star Gazing featured heavily, with clear skies allowing amazing views of the cosmos! Hiking around the Silchester walls gave the cubs an excellent opportunity to navigate via the stars.



Continuing the theme of community engagement, the Pioneer Beavers visited 27 Squadron at RAF Odiham. They got to hang out in Chinook Helicopters, wear night vision goggles and learn all about what the helicopter crew wear and do.

As the weather permitted, the younger children enjoyed some of the essentials of Scouting, such as firelighting and campfire activities such as traditional songs, skits, hot dogs and s'mores!

The older children worked on their household skills such as sewing, ironing, and fixing a flat tyre, and on their bushcraft skills, such as learning knots, erecting ad hoc shelters, sharpening their knives and using them to make tent pegs.

All groups continue to learn about recycling, sustainability and our impact on the world. We hosted visits from West Berkshire's recycling team to learn which plastics can be recycled, and why. We also visited IKEA to learn about their sustainable business model, and had a treasure hunt around the store to earn an ice cream prize!

Finally, our members' families enjoyed a short social 'mince pie' hike at Christmas to help various Explorers raise money for their Korean Jamboree adventure this summer.

We are always looking for volunteers to join our teams, to help us provide a broad Scouting curriculum. To find out more, please email burghfieldgsl@outlook.com or go to www.1stbands.org

1st Mortimer Scout Group

Another Scouting year commences our 113th Year!

Beavers have been learning about healthy eating, they made cardboard shoes and learnt how to tie their own laces, for Halloween they made Rice Crispy pumpkin cakes, they learnt about Remembrance Day and made Poppies out of tissue paper. They learnt about St Andrew for St Andrews day and made Paper thistles and recently celebrated Chinese New Year (the year of the Rabbit) by making moving Rabbits coloured in lucky colours.



A number of our Beavers will be moving up to cubs shortly so there will be a new intake after Easter and after spring half term mail info@1st-mortimer.org.uk for more info.

Cubs: October saw our annual Pumpkin carving night with some fantastic result. A torch lit night hike through the woods was enjoyed by everyone. Remembrance parade was once again very well-attended with everyone looking very smart.



Christmas arrived and along with the Beavers we travelled by Coach to Hurley-on-Thames to see our Rover leader in Panto, a great evening enjoyed by everyone. Our Christmas craft this year was to make wooden Christmas Card holders which when lit up looked fantastic. Our term ended with a Cubs' Disco night with sound and lights provided very expertly by one of our Scouts, a great evening

enjoyed by everyone. Coming up is our February Camp held at our HQ the Theme will be The Wolf Cub Café more details on how this went in the next edition.

Scouts Enjoyed a great October half term camp despite the awful weather, with an expedition on the River Thames from Pangbourne to Wallingford with overnight camps at both ends. They produced a very interesting free-standing Hammock frame. Our Christmas outing this year was a visit to the air rifle shooting range at Grazeley, firing at night under flood lights bringing a whole new dimension to the fun. Currently they are working on making fold-up canvas sides to our Cook House and looking forward to the Skip Johnson Memorial Hike competition on the 1st April. We have lots of spaces available for children from year 7 onwards mail info@1st-mortimer.org.uk for more details.





Rovers Our most senior Adult section have been working on improving our HQ work has started to improve our storage and toilet facilities with initial ground works almost completed. Building work to replace our old garage store is scheduled to commence late February early March.

If your son or daughter would like to join in the fun then please get in touch by emailing info@1st-mortimer.org.uk

Beavers: Year 1 to 2, Cubs: Year 3 to 6, Scouts: Year 7 onwards.

The Oaks Childcare Clubs CIC

We've had some exciting Christmas visitors at the Mortimer Clubs where we offer wraparound care for St John's (Little Oaks) and St Mary's (Big Oaks) Schools – not only Father Christmas but Rolly The Magician visited Little Oaks and kept the children wide-eyed with magic thrills. We know that all the Oaks children have come home with festive keepsakes and tree decorations for families to treasure for many years to come. The Christmas party food though disappeared without a trace!



The Oaks Childcare
Community Interest Company

In our Big Oaks clubs, there has been lots of fun in all weathers – from crispy, sunny morning football at our breakfast club to plenty of puzzles, craft, domino competitions and indoor games when it became too dark after school to play outside. We're delighted to see the sunshine appearing again for longer each day ☀️. At Little Oaks, as well as Christmas, there has been a lot to celebrate from St Andrews Day last November through to Chinese New Year this January. Our holiday clubs, open to children attending any primary school will be running at nearby Aldermaston School in February and May half terms, and from Mortimer St Mary's during the Easter and Summer holidays, 8am-6pm each day.



Our Early Little Oaks were surprised, but not fazed, to see Ofsted on our doorstep early one January morning for an unannounced visit. We achieved a grading of 'Met' the highest grade possible for a wraparound club, and Debs and the team got some great feedback on offering high-quality, fun, safe childcare. Graham, Jackie and the Big Oaks team also got great feedback in their inspection last year. Take a look at our Facebook page for more news of all the fun the children have been having and we hope to see you soon.

Made in Mortimer



Made in Mortimer is a group of crafters and artisans from Mortimer and adjacent villages. Our aim is to create a supportive network for local people who love to make hand-crafted items. We welcome new members who want to share their love of crafting and the ethos of the group.

Currently we meet on a monthly basis for social evenings where members come along to share ideas, information and to craft together. These social evenings are open to members and non-members and are often held in the Mortimer library.

We run a couple of fairs a year and it was a pleasure to see so many of the community, including some new shoppers, at our Christmas shopping evening in November 2022. We are planning to hold another fair later this year, in October.

New members are always welcome so feel free to get in touch via email made.in.mortimer@gmail.com.

You can also follow our Facebook page www.facebook.com/MadeInMortimer or look at our website (which has details of our members and upcoming meetings and events) www.madeinmortimer.org.

Mortimer Greening Campaign



Phase 1 of Greening Mortimer was successfully launched on 14th January. This was a lively, informative community event which promoted the 8 Challenges that had previously been chosen at a public meeting. Each Challenge comprises of making simple changes to our daily lives to both save money (a great benefit at this time of soaring energy prices) and importantly, decrease the amount of CO₂ we release into the atmosphere. Acting as a community the CO₂ saving is significant.

Each Challenge was represented at the event with fun facts and useful tips on how to achieve the changes needed. There was theatrical entertainment on stage with 1st Mortimer Scouts demonstrating the challenge to "Turn Your Thermostat Down by 1 degree C" – with a hilarious 'putting on jumpers to keep warm' race. The event was celebrated by a stunning performance of the Hurst Singers who had rewritten lyrics to include the Challenges.

The Experience Exchange was immensely popular. Mortimer residents and experts exchanged their experiences and knowledge of green technologies with fellow residents, who were keen to learn about these without feeling the pressure to buy. In addition, Dads Shop provided a useful display of energy-saving lighting. We will shortly be in touch with those who attended the Launch and requested thermal imaging.

At the time of writing, the card count was in progress. The estimated carbon saving by participants will be published as soon as it has been calculated by the Greening Campaign.

Following the completion of Phase 1, Phase 2 will focus on more advanced, joined-up ways our Community can improve Mortimer's carbon footprint and benefit us all. This will include:

- Nurturing our green spaces
- Making our homes more sustainable
- Health and wellbeing in our changing climate
- Community bulk negotiation/ purchasing

For more information or if you would like to be involved, please email:

greeningmortimer@stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk

and follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/GreeningMortimer

Mortimer & Burghfield Toy Library

Volunteers needed for a variety of roles at Mortimer and Burghfield Toy Library. New and exciting opportunities are opening as the Toy Library is rapidly expanding. The Toy Library offers toy hire for babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers. Volunteering roles may include:



- Helping on the days Toy Library opens every 4th Saturday of the month
- Admin work
- Helping with the launch of a new website including data entry
- Sorting and photographing toys
- Filling in grant applications

- Fundraising
- Advertising

Other experience and skill sets may also be helpful. Minimum age: 15

"I started volunteering at Toy library after lockdown ended. I was full of anxiety, and I had very little confidence. The other volunteers are so friendly, supportive and easy to get on with. We work as a good team. We went out for a social meal and had a good laugh. I have grown so much as a person. I'm so glad I decided to volunteer at the Toy Library."

Claire Smith Toy Library Volunteer

Contact Email Dorothy.harfleet@sky.com

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 noticeboard outside Co-op.

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	Contact	Telephone	Email
1st Burghfield & Sulhamstead Scouts	Rowena Bourne	07867 804441	burghfieldgsl@outlook.com chair@1stbands.org
1st Mortimer Brownies	Rachel Ryan	0118 933 3153	firstmortimerbrownies@hotmail.co.uk
1st Mortimer Guides	Toni Smith	07886 524611	mortimerguides@hotmail.com
1st Mortimer Scouts	Neil Johnson	01189 332 147	neilpjohnson@btinternet.com
1st Ufton Nervet Scout Group	Cathryn Knight	07793 196863	cathryn@uftonscouts.com
Age Concern	Tina Tomlinson	07852 557733	tubbs66.tb@googlemail.com
Alfred Palmer Memorial Field Trust	John Hannawin		trustees@alfredpalmermemorialfield.org.uk
B&M Volunteer Bureau	Steve Carter	0118 922 3365	bureauvolunteer@gmail.com
Bags2School	Peta Clark		petaclark@gmail.com

Affiliate	Contact	Telephone	Email
Belle Canto Trio	Heather Sims	0118 970 0001	info@bellecanto.uk
Burghfield & Mortimer 1st Responders	Tom Maynard		thomas.maynard@sca-charity.org.uk
Burghfield & Mortimer Handybus	Don Harwood	0118 983 6611	thehandybus@gmail.com
Burghfield Bowls Club	Gary Belcher	07952 560781	garybmob@gmail.com
Burghfield Camera Club	Dave Hucker		burghfieldccsec@gmail.com
Burghfield Santas	Gareth Green	07557 205224	gareth.green@gmail.com
Crafters Club	Ann Stroud	0118 933 1491	d.stroud2010@btinternet.com
Greening Mortimer	Amanda Marsden	0118 933 1955	greeningmortimer@stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk
Made in Mortimer	Rebecca Hedges		made.in.mortimer@gmail.com
Mortimer & Burghfield Toy Library	Dorothy Harfleet	07733 297741	dorothy.harfleet@sky.com
Mortimer (St. Johns) Village Hall	Brian Thatcher		brianthatcher@btinternet.com
Mortimer 2012 WI	Jill Bradberry		mortimer2012wi@berkshirewi.co.uk
Mortimer Baby & Toddler Group	Amanda Lowe		amanda.lowe44@yahoo.co.uk
Mortimer Bell Ringers	Nick Munson Elaine Perkins	0118 933 2200	mortimerbellringers@gmail.com
Mortimer Cricket Club	Adrian Smith		adrsmith@gmail.com
Mortimer Dramatic Society	Katja/ Phil Collins/ Tom Shorrock	0778 533 3321	info@mortimer-dramatic.org
Mortimer FC	Matthew Gabb	07786 631027	mortimerfootballclub@gmail.com
Mortimer Local History Group	Deirdre Burrell		db@burrellhouse.plus.com
Mortimer Methodist Church	Daphne Cooney	0118 933 3051	daphnecooney@gmail.com

Affiliate	Contact	Telephone	Email
Mortimer Music Live CIC	Ryan Saunders	07779 939495	info@mortimermusiclive.co.uk
Mortimer Pre School Parents Committee	Klara Hicks		admin@mortimerpreschool.org.uk
Mortimer Schools PTFA	Gemma Matthews		mortimerschoolsptfa@gmail.com
Mortimer Surgery Patients Participation Group	John Bagshaw	07801 937410	johnalbagshaw@btinternet.com
Mortimer Tennis Club	Jean Thomas		info@mortimertennisclub.co.uk
Mortimer West End & District Annual Show	Nick Munson	07905 617665	ngmunson@yahoo.com
Mortimer West End Village Hall	Heather Sims	0118 970 0001	mwevh@gmail.com
MWE Cricket Club	Andrew Williams	07803 297 934	MWECCChairman@outlook.com
Royal British Legion	Tina Tomlinson	07852 557733	tubbs66.tb@googlemail.com
Save the Children - Kennet Branch B25	Clare Downey		jclaredowney@gmail.com
South Berks Concert Band	Louise Truslove	07759 967474	southberksconcertband@yahoo.com
Stratfield Mortimer Benefice	Sara Spratt	0118 933 3704	admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk
Stratfield Mortimer Fairground Charity	Gemma Matthews		gemmademelza@gmail.com
The Hurst Singers	Mari Fleming	0118 9332805 07882 40433	mariatseasons@aol.com
The Oaks Childcare Clubs CIC	Nicole Graham	0118 933 2960	office@theoakschildcare.co.uk
Together in Mission	Emma Shumsky	07748 686615.	info@togetherinmission.org.uk
West Berkshire Walking 4 Health	Graham Bridgman	07770 918910	gb@atpps.com
Willink PTA	Garry Strange		garry.strange1973@gmail.com

MVP Contact Details

Chairman	Doug Overett	chair@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	Rabia Anselm	affiliates@mortimervillage.org.uk

MVP committee meetings are held at 7:30pm on the 2nd Tuesday of the month and are open to participation from anyone. We rotate where we meet, so if you would like to join us, use the Contact Us button on the website or contact any of the committee member and we'll let you know where the next meeting is.

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

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