

Summer 2023

NEWSLETTER

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Summer has arrived at last!

As we write this latest edition of our newsletter, it seems that at last summer has arrived. The gardens have gone

ballistic having enjoyed the wet and now the sun warming the soil, our veg plots, flower beds and certainly our weeds have grown like

never before. Of course, summer had to just hold off long enough to ensure that the King’s Coronation event was a typical “British” affair, but it was still great to see so many people ignore the rain and have a great time. On the plus side, the rest of the weekend was sunny which meant that all the gazebos and marquees could be put away dry.

It is traditional that at this time, we announce the theme for our annual Scarecrow Trail to allow everyone the summer to think about their Scarecrow entry and maybe the keen ones begin the build. I doubt that will change the fact that there is always a last-minute dash to get them over the line. This has become such a big diary item for Mortimer and it would be lovely to see some new entrants this year to make our walk around the village a little more varied.

We continue with our theatre offerings as autumn and winter approach…. did I just say “Winter”? …… with a great production from Little Bulb Theatre in September, followed this time after Christmas by our traditional Panto.

With the King’s Big Help Out message still fresh, it’s worth noting that this year we have seen new people volunteering to get involved in village activities, be that helping at Lunch Club, delivering newsletters or car park marshals. It would be sad to lose this momentum since there are lots of ways to get involved either with MVP or indeed many of our 40+ affiliated groups. If you’d like to put up your hand just a little more, please email me at [chair@mortimervillage.org.uk](mailto:chair@mortimervillage.org.uk).

Lastly of course, a big thank you to all of you who already put up their hand, whenever they are asked!

Have a great summer!

**Doug Overett**

*Chairman*

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

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King Charles III Coronation Event

Fancy Dress, Picnics, Wellies and Brollies The King’s Coronation had all the hallmarks of a great British party and, true to form, the great Mortimer people ignored the weather and turned up in their thousands… well hundreds initially, but brave it they did. Sheltered under gazebos and umbrellas, hiding in the tea tent and bar, they watched the crowning of our King and Queen.

The Coronation party organised jointly by Mortimer Village Partnership and Mortimer Music Live, grew in momentum, as people gradually decided it’s now or never, donned their rainwear and headed to the Fairground. From 3pm a constant stream kept coming, the Tea tent never stopped serving, the bar was heaving all afternoon and evening, burgers were being flipped, hogs roasted, chickens jerked and chips got cheesy… the party had begun.

The stage was buzzing with some fantastic performances from local choirs and bands, children were dressed as Kings, Queens, Princes and Princesses and all received their chocolate crown lolly. We had the Classic cars, Cake competition, a Prize draw, fun fair and more….. I guess you just had to be there.

This was a major endeavour to put together in just 4 months, but we had a great team of around 15 who headed up the various component parts - true collaboration of local organisations and individuals wanting to play their part on this historic day. Supported by over 100 volunteers working tirelessly from Friday morning, through to making sure everything was cleared up and locked away by 7pm Sunday evening. Thank you to all of those volunteers.

Also, a big thank you to our amazing sponsors who helped us fund this event so that it could be free for all our community to enjoy and lastly a big thank you to everyone who came, enjoyed the day and made all the hard work worthwhile.

One of the biggest events in Berkshire and beyond….. Mortimer, we did it again! And in case you missed them, you can see more pictures from the day here: <https://www.mortimervillage.org.uk/gallery/Coronation%20Event>

Visiting Theatre

Award winning Little Bulb are coming back to Mortimer this September with Mountain Music! When travellers from the British Isles arrived in the Appalachian Mountains, they brought the invisible baggage of songs and reels. Seasoned community tourers, Little Bulb, create an unforgettable tapestry of culture, migration, and history, exploring the roots of Americana and its impact on popular music today. A theatrical feast of tales and songs, featuring sumptuous three-part harmonies and a foot-stomping five-piece string band, storytelling, an interval and second act gig.

Mountain Music, devised by in collaboration with Farnham Maltings, is coming to St. John’s Hall on 30th September at 7.30pm

A group of people playing harps

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceGo to <https://thelittleboxoffice.com/mortimervillage/> to book.

Early Bird Tickets (until 31st July): Adults £12, Under 17s £10

A black and white sign with black text

Description automatically generated with low confidenceAfter July 31st: Adults £15, Under 17s £12

The Zoo That Comes To You’ On 1st April a packed St John’s Hall was treated to ’The Zoo that Comes to You’. Two wildlife enthusiasts introduced the audience to a range of animals which they had saved and rehomed during their journeys around the globe. We learnt of the human and ecological dangers which had made the animals flee their natural habitats. The great joy of each animal was that it was able to talk to the audience and share a little of its story. From the shimmering arrival of the beautiful lizard to the running around of the baby rhino, the audience, young and old, were enchanted by the creatures and even got to meet them at the end!

It’s never too early to think about Christmas, so a date for your diary for the next family event is our annual Panto on Saturday 30th December, when Garry Starr will be bringing the timeless classic Beauty and the Beast to St John’s Hall.

Lunch Club

The volunteers and current guests of Mortimer Lunch Club would like to invite elderly members of our community to join us for lunch. We meet twice a month (second and last Thursday) in the Community Centre for a meal and a chance to meet old friends and make new ones. If you would like to attend please call Rebecca on 07515 775464 or Louise on 07974 128087.

Currently the Handy Bus transport to our lunches is full (we are running a waiting list for this) but we are very happy to welcome people who can make their own way/have family/friends who could bring them.

As always volunteers are also warmly welcomed, particularly people who may be able to help with transport or help set up/put away the tables and chairs. Please WhatsApp Rebecca on 07515 775464 if you can help, even if only occasionally.

Scarecrow Trail

A blue musical note with a black background

Description automatically generated with low confidenceA blue musical note with a black background

Description automatically generated with low confidenceThe ever-popular Mortimer Scarecrow Trail is back this October Half Term! This year’s theme is Sing a Song of Scarecrows. From Children’s Rhymes to Rock’n’Roll, Disney to Bollywood, we want you to bring the music to Mortimer this Autumn.

We’re looking for experienced and budding new “Scarecrow Inventors” from across the village to enter the event. Think about how you can bring your favourite character or performer to life, or perhaps it’s a line from, or title of, a song that’s sowing the seeds of your creativity.

More information about entering this year’s event will be announced in July. There will be cash prizes awarded for Children’s and Adult’s Favourite, Funniest and Chairman’s Choice. Watch out for more information across Facebook and our website.... go on, build a scarecrow and join in the fun!

MVP Affiliate News

Burghfield and Mortimer Volunteer Bureau

As chair of the Burghfield and Mortimer Volunteer Bureau I was delighted to represent the organisation, along with my friend Gilbert Bedford, our organiser, at the recently held Knowledge Event. The event was held at Shaw House Newbury having been arranged by the Volunteer Centre West Berks. The event was well-attended with over 90 individual voluntary organisations represented. I was fortunate to be introduced to the guest of honour HRH the Duchess of Gloucester. HRH was keen to learn about how we help people get to their various medical appointments. I was able to speak to two other organisations similar to ours and discuss and compare our ways of working, and I am happy to say I think we are doing a good job. I discovered that here in West Berks we are better served by voluntary organisations than almost anywhere else in England, with voluntary time at minimum wage rates totalling over £6m per year freely given, something that we are all very proud of. Photo courtesy of Newbury Weekly News.

Belle Canto Trio

A group of women in dresses

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceOver the spring Belle Canto Trio has supported two charities for people with dementia, entertaining them and their carers in East Grafton and Winchester. We've also been busy rehearsing a wide range of new songs for our up-coming private and public concerts. We'd love to see you at our summer Blue Skies concert (yes, you may have guessed one of our songs!) at Shinfield St. Mary's church on **Saturday 5th August** at 12 noon. And if you'd like to catch our Autumn Leaves programme, please join us at the Ship Inn Arts Centre at 3pm on **Saturday 14th October**.

Sadly our concert on 15th July in Bramley has had to be postponed, but we will be singing at a number of private events in Bramley – for the flower club, the walking group and the WI. We will even be performing in Germany!

Details: [www.facebook.com/bellecantotrio](http://www.facebook.com/bellecantotrio) and [www.bellecanto.uk](http://www.bellecanto.uk)

Mortimer Toy Library

A person standing in a white tent

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceWhat a wonderful time we had, children and adults alike at the Burghfield May Fayre. Only our second year attending this fabulous event and we are learning on the job. Burghfield Tesco Express kindly donated some much needed items and Ian Morris got us a tent from 1st Burghfield & Sulhamstead Scouts.

Volunteers worked their socks off to make sure our tent was filled with colour, toys and bubbles. We provided a safe space for children to play, giving adults time to rest. The fact that the tent nearly flew off and the bubble mixture flooded a table didn’t throw us at all! Response was amazing and it was delightful to introduce the benefits of the Toy Library to many people.

A group of women standing in front of a white tent

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceWe are open the fourth Saturday of the month at Mortimer Methodist Hall, 9:30 to 11 am. For a £20 annual fee you can borrow up to 14 toys a month (from a choice of approx. 500 which are constantly being updated). With a few more volunteers we would be able to do more of these fun-filled events, so why not pop on down to a session and enjoy the fun.

Mortimer Local History Group

As we have just had our AGM, and this is our first contribution to the newsletter, here is a rundown of some of our meetings over the last year. MLHG had a stand with display boards at the Jubilee celebrations in 2022, and in June we discussed them and the reminiscence notes left by visitors to the stand. In August, members and guests gathered for a very enjoyable afternoon tea party at The Jackdaw, formerly the Silchester Arms, and were treated to tours of the house and an insight into its fascinating history. In September, Lorne Clarke gave a very interesting talk and demonstrations on early recording equipment such as gramophones and wireless set. In October Mike Newman outlined the history of Mortimer Bowls Club and Phil Challis talked about the establishment of Mortimer Motorcycle Club, accompanied by photographs and newspaper articles. November’s meeting was a “virtual pub crawl”, January saw our Christmas party, and in February John Miller and his guests talked about local farms and major changes that had occurred in agriculture and farming methods over the last few decades. In March, Bob and Carolyn showed some very interesting aerial photographs of Mortimer going back many years which generated a lot of discussion.

A regular MLHG post on the MVP Facebook page has generated much interest, and at our last meeting we had 26 present, including many new faces; we know that between them they have a great deal to contribute to our records, so currently we are thinking about the best way to go about ‘exploiting’ this knowledge, for future generations!

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 to 11am 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.

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

The Hurst Singers

The Hurst Singers sing every Thursday evening in St John’s Hall. Our four-part choir, led by Elaine Cox, helped by Dave Ball and accompanied by our amazing pianist Alison Lloyd, sing classical and modern pieces – we love the variety.

We usually plan two main concerts a year, which gives a bit of flexibility to accept other invitations as they occur. In March 2023 we gave our Spring Concert in St Mary’s Church, Burghfield Common, where we attracted a lovely large audience and some really nice compliments. The Coronation Event on Mortimer Fairground was slightly less enjoyable for the performers, with horizontal rain, drips down the neck and soggy music, but thankyou to the audience who stood in the rain to listen to us!

A group of people on a stage

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceOur next performance will be in the afternoon **July 23rd in Beech Hill Church**, where we will join other singers for a summer concert in aid of the church funds. We have an Open Rehearsal evening on September 28th, do come along for a taste of what we do.

We now regularly number 30+ at rehearsals every week. We are often looking for new members – especially tenors and basses and we start back in the Autumn on September 7th. It is a very friendly group, and we laugh a lot on the way to learning new pieces! There are some members with lots of singing experience, and others who are just keen beginners with a desire to learn. Unsurprisingly, singing in tune, and in time, helps for those considering joining! <http://thehurstsingers.org/>

1st Burghfield and Sulhamstead Scouts

The perpetual rain has finally given way to sunshine, and the young people of 1st Burghfield and Sulhamstead Scouts have been enjoying nature and the outdoors.

**Pathfinder Beavers** made crowns for the coronation and decorated cup-cakes.

**Cubs** attended Cubjam - an action-packed themed camp, journeying through time with Romans, Egyptians, Greeks and Ancient Britons, including activities, entertainment and making friends with Cubs from across the country.

**Hawks** Scout troop visited Cotswold Outdoors Shop to learn about equipment and gear up for our camp trips, including a memorial hike for late Mortimer scout leader Skip Johnson and a survival camp in hammocks under the stars. Hawks also engaged in an inter-troop cooking competition, slot car racing, a zoom call with a Danish troop, circus skills, met a guide dog, and ran a greasy pole activity at the Mortimer Coronation event.

**Falcon** Scouts had a go at making their own sausages and grilled them over a campfire. The results were tasty, including a veggie alternative with quite an involved list of ingredients and kitchen gadgets. Falcons held their first photography skills night - learning to use the manual modes for trick photography and photo editing. We wrote words with a torch, filmed some short stop motion Lego movies, added colour pops to images and even got photos of scouts hanging out of a toy helicopter as if life size!

**TAO Explorers** have cooked a lot (bake off, cooking science experiments, cardboard pizza ovens), as well as working on our general pioneering skills in preparation for the river crossing challenge later in the term.

We joined other units from the district and participated in the 'Monopoly Run Live' in central London. Explorers spent the day in London in groups of 6 or 7 racing around London to see who could make the most money!

Photos of all the events mentioned here can be found on our affiliates page on the MVP website which you can access from: https://www.mortimervillage.org.uk/Affiliate-Support/Current-Affiliates

Burghfield and Mortimer Handybus

The Burghfield & Mortimer Handybus continues to flourish, providing specialist community transport for our elderly and less able members of the community. We have just completed a year, post-Covid, with 3,300 passenger journeys spread over 460 individual trips in our two specially adapted minibuses. Popular trips are to our local supermarkets, local Social Clubs and mornings out to Newbury.

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 local supermarkets please contact us. We are planning some day trips to the south coast this summer to give our regular passengers an opportunity to taste the sea air…. and seaside fish and chips.

Providing this valuable community service depends on volunteers and we are always interested in anyone who might 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](mailto:thehandybus@gmail.com)

Burghfield Camera Club

A picture containing black and white, monochrome, person

Description automatically generatedBurghfield Camera Club has had a varied season with success in interclub competitions (see ’Hands’). We photographed members’ hands with suitable props and a single light, to produce coordinating black and white images. The results were placed on our online forum, where members can advise on improving and editing images.

We will be exhibiting photographic prints in Mortimer and Burghfield shortly, so you can see our work and perhaps contribute your own photos in future.

We have a final social BBQ to look forward to in July. We do not meet in August, but have a number of photo challenges to review when our new programme opens in September. Join us at our fortnightly meetings for talks, workshops, competitions, outings, and discussions. All welcome, whether you use a mobile or a fancy camera. Our programme and details can be found here: [www.burghfieldcameraclub.co.uk](http://www.burghfieldcameraclub.co.uk) Or if you would like to come along and try us out, email [burghfieldccsec@gmail.com](mailto:burghfieldccsec@gmail.com)

Mortimer Pre School

A picture containing text, clipart

Description automatically generatedIt’s been a busy couple of months at Mortimer Pre School! Easter was lots of fun with Easter Egg Hunts, Egg and Spoon races, making and eating chocolate nests. We celebrated the King’s Coronation with an indoor street party at Pre School; the children wore the crowns they had made and enjoyed a yummy picnic.

The Pre School garden has had a refresh; a huge thank you to the Parish Council for the grant that enabled this. The children are enjoying lots of time outside; they have been busy planting tomato plants and runner bean seeds to take home and watch grow and hopefully enjoy eating too.

There is always some sort of messy play to be enjoyed at Pre School; experimenting with different textures like shaving foam, flour, water or mud. Each week there are different activities to do; baking, gardening, yoga to name just a few. We also have our weekly PE sessions with Sporty Sarah; a great opportunity for the children to learn new skills.

Each day at Pre School once everyone has arrived, we start with circle time, saying good morning to everyone. Then it is free flow play where the children can choose what they want to do out of the activities set up. There is always the book corner if anyone wants some quiet time throughout the day and a craft table for colouring and making things. We are now preparing to say goodbye to some of our children who are moving on to school in September. Some children and families will return in the Autumn, and we are looking forward to welcoming some new families too.

If you are interested in a place for your child at Mortimer Pre-School, please get in touch at [admissions@mortimerpreschool.org.uk](about:blank) or visit our website [www.mortimerpreschool.org.uk](about:blank)

Friends of Mortimer Library

It’s exciting news… A group of local residents have worked together to form the Friends of Mortimer Library (FoML).

We aim to promote our library, to encourage use by local people and groups. It’s a wonderful facility in the centre of the village which we should all be proud of. It’s a place where local people of all ages can come together to enjoy themselves, meet new people and learn. We are an independently-constituted body who will work closely with West Berkshire Library Service and the Parish Council, but we want you to come on board with us. We look forward to hosting a variety of events.

If you would like to help, offer your support or have any ideas and suggestions of setting up interest groups for adults or children, or events involving local speakers, please get in touch by email [info@foml.mortimervillage.org.uk](mailto:info@foml.mortimervillage.org.uk)

Together In Mission

The Trustees wish to thank Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council for a donation via their Community Fund and to thank Ufton Nervet Fuel Allotment Charity for their ongoing support.

****A group of women standing around a table

Description automatically generatedAn amazing 10 years of service to the community from TiM Friends was celebrated at Café B. Our wonderful team of volunteers are the heart and soul of TiM Friends. We said farewell to Josephine who has been with us from the start and we wish her a happy retirement. Thank you to Alex, Sally, Emma and our volunteers for all their help at this memorable moment.

For details of our service please contact Bev French, TiM Friends Coordinator, 07748 686615 [bevfrench6@gmail.com](mailto:bevfrench6@gmail.com)

**A picture containing text

Description automatically generated**Mondays and Wednesdays

9:30am–1:00pm (last food orders 12:30pm)

at the Burghfield Methodist Church Hall

Café B serves a wide range of hot drinks from £1.60, home-made cakes and hot food. Eat in or take away. We accept contactless and offer loyalty cards.

[https://www.facebook.com/CommunityCafé B/](https://www.facebook.com/CommunityCafé%20B/)

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

We desperately need a volunteer to manage our social media and website. No more than a few hours a month, but it would be an enormous help to advertise our work in the community. Please contact Jon for details [daviesjon62@gmail.com](mailto:daviesjon62@gmail.com)

**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 West End Village Hall

This year our ever-popular Family Treasure Trail and Woodland Walk will be held on **Sunday 16th July**.

Starting and ending at the village hall, the walk offers adults, children and furry friends an opportunity to enjoy the beautiful woodland in our area. You can set off any time between 11.00 am and 1.00 pm. The walk is between 1.5 and 2 miles and should take about 1 hour at a very leisurely pace. On the way round you can collect treasure and solve puzzles. And you can relax afterwards with a juicy burger or sausage, and a nice cold drink. Or if you don't fancy a walk, just come for the BBQ! Map and route instructions are £5 per team, available at the door. More information from [www.facebook.com/mwevillagehall](http://www.facebook.com/mwevillagehall) [mwevhall@gmail.com](mailto:mwevhall@gmail.com) or 0118-970-0001.

The Mortimer & District Annual Show will be held on August Bank Holiday Saturday 26th August. More details can be found in their own article below.

And 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; or why not join the Pilates, Yoga or dog training classes run there each week.

Mortimer & District Annual Show

The Mortimer & District Annual Show for Produce Arts and Crafts will be held on August Bank Holiday **Saturday 26th August** – Once again it’s time to prepare your entries**.**

Steeped in history, this has been an annual fixture of the village calendar for over 100 years. Categories include vegetables, fruit, flowers, crafts, photography, art, flower arranging, beverages and baking. Children's classes for up to 6 and 7 - 14 years olds. There is a small fee per entry (under 14’s entry is free) and prizes to be won! Some of the fun entries this year are the heaviest pumpkin, the largest sunflower (diameter) and the longest runner bean.

Even if you are not showing, come along from 2:30pm and see what the talented locals have produced, enjoy tea & cake in the garden, enter the raffle and join in the fun and games! (Entrance Fee £1 adults, under 16’s free)

The familiar green Show Schedule can be found at local shops and businesses. It’s also available to download via the MVP website along with the entry forms: <https://www.mortimervillage.org.uk/calendar-items/mortimer-west-end-district-annual-show>

1st Mortimer Scouts

**Beavers** have been living up to their motto of Busy and Bright enjoying planting onions, tomatoes and potatoes, and growing sunflowers. Cream egg chicks went down very well at Easter as did pancake races (not too many went on the floor!) Crowns and bunting were made to celebrate the King’s Coronation but the most fun was on founders’ day with a campfire and toasted marshmallows .

**Cubs** During the winter Cubs enjoyed some great indoor activities including creating an assault course. Winter camp involved creating their own café making all the cakes and cookies,setting tables,taking bookings via telephone, greeting guests, serving them and taking the money - a fantastic achievement. Cubs took part in the annual Village Spring clean, collecting an astonishing amount of rubbish. May camp was held at our HQ with a day trip to The Cotswold Wild Life park followed by a hike to West End woods where they prepared dinner over an open fire (one-pot stew) and they also created a bug hotel - Bugingham Palace!

**Scouts,** with Cubs and Beavers manned stalls at the King’s Coronation event where, despite the inclement weather, and thanks to the support of the hundreds of people who attended, we sold out of everything.

A new intake of cubs has swelled numbers. They went straight into lighting fires and command tasks, all handled with great enthusiasm and interesting outcomes.

Over the past 3 years we have helped a group of Hungarian Scouts made up from Hungarian children who live in towns and villages close to us. They bring with them their own very traditional form of Scouting and teach them Hungarian traditions so they are not lost. Recently we helped them with a day of raft building which they very much enjoyed with some fantastic results.

Adult section have been working on HQ to improve our storage and toilet facilities and renewing our memorial garden as well as preparing for a Scout Jamboree In Germany in July and assisting with all sections within the group.

In March we held the first ever Skip Johnson Memorial Hike competition with distances of 10 or 20 kilometeres depending on age and ability. Despite the very wet conditions which left parts of the course under water, all the teams that took part enjoyed the challenge; we look forward to seeing the winners of all sections back next year to defend their titles along with many more teams..

Photos of all the events mentioned here can be found on our affiliates page on the MVP website which you can access from: https://www.mortimervillage.org.uk/Affiliate-Support/Current-Affiliates

If your son or daughter would like to join in the fun then 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

Wellbeing Walks

Every Tuesday we run three walks, all starting from the community centre car park opposite the Horse & Groom:

09:45 – a longer walk of around five miles lasting about 1¾ hours;

10:00 – the regular walk, around three and a half miles lasting about 1½ hours;

10:30 – a gentle walk lasting an hour or so.

The aim is for all three walks to arrive back at about 11:30 (and many of us then repair to the H&G for a coffee or whatever suits!).

Wellbeing Walks is sponsored by West Berkshire Council and all the walks are led by trained volunteers. The routes are designed for people of all abilities (hence the differing lengths and start times), offering you an opportunity to meet new people and explore the beautiful countryside around the village. The walks are extremely popular and regularly attract people from as far afield as Basingstoke, Bramley, 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). We are all very friendly and newcomers are soon in conversation with other walkers.

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceWalking regularly is good for all sorts of reasons, not just trying to get a little fitter – it overcomes a recognised barrier to becoming more active by providing opportunities for social contact, 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 Patient Participation Group

A packed St John's Village Hall was the venue for the public event ‘Health for the Future – How to get the most from your local surgery’ on June 7th organised by the Mortimer Surgery Patient Participation Group.

Introduced by Shirley Cullup, Mortimer PPG Chair, the first speaker was Dr Iain Rock, Senior Partner at the practice, who discussed the ways in which the services were being developed and how the public could best access and make use of the range available now and developing into the future.

Gemma Longmate then talked about how she and her colleague contributed as Paramedics, and the issues and challenges which they deal with regularly.

Sarah Morland, the new Social Prescriber, discussed the range of helpful organisations and groups that can be accessed for anyone who is struggling with personal or social issues, and how she could help people to find support.

Finally Penny Palmer, the Practice Manager, discussed how she organised staff and facilities to provide the best possible experience for the public and to ensure the practice stayed on a sound footing financially.

A group of people sitting in a room

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceA lively discussion between audience members and the panel of speakers followed, then time was allowed for people to meet and talk to representatives of invited support groups who also displayed literature. Six groups were present; Age UK Berkshire, Dementia Connect, Time to Talk, West Berkshire Cost of Living Hub, Burghfield and Mortimer Volunteers and Calcot East Family Hub.

If you have questions or comments for the PPG please send them to [ppgmortimersurgery@gmail.com](mailto:ppgmortimersurgery@gmail.com) The next meeting will be on 13th July.

Save the Children

A red logo with black text

Description automatically generated with low confidenceThank you to everyone who attended our Midsummer Music event in Burghfield Village on Sunday 25th June.

Our very popular ‘Check-out’ jumble sales are on the following dates in the second half of 2023**, 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. There is a small entry fee per person. 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).

You will also find us providing the refreshments at the Whitchurch Art Cafe, The Old Rectory Stables, Whitchurch on Thames on Saturday 16th of September from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Mortimer Dramatic Society

Text

Description automatically generatedHello again from Mortimer Dramatic Society. Following on from our last missive to you all, we have performed our January production “Murder by The Book” which was a great success. Not only was it a sellout, it was nominated by the National Operatic and Dramatic Association for the District award for our set design which we won! It has now been put forward to the regional heats. It’s always heart-warming when we get acknowledged by our peers, particularly for the largely unsung heroes of backstage.

We have been very busy as we have also just completed another successful production in May – “Last Panto in Little Grimley”.

Wonderful photos from both productions can be found on our website.

We are now planning our October production (20th, 21st, 27th, 28th) and we are always looking for new members who want to perform and help backstage. I promise we are a friendly lot! So, if you contact us now, then you could be involved in our exciting new production in October.

If you need any further information regarding Auditions, Club nights, contact details etc. then please pop along to our web site [www.mortimer-dramatic.org](http://www.mortimer-dramatic.org/), where you will find all the information you need, and if you still have questions then please contact us.

Mortimer Bell Ringers

What a great day we had for the coronation! We rang all the bells in the benefice, St John’s by the common, St Mary’s down the hill, and Padworth. All our ringers were able to take part and we had two new people join us. One who used to ring in Mortimer about 20 years ago and the other starting from scratch.

Thank you to all our ringers for making this a great day of ringing!

We now have a healthy band of ringers from Mortimer, Burghfield and further afield. Several who came to learn recently are now happily ringing unaided. We take our ringing seriously and we have a lot of fun. We are always open to new recruits or people who have rung perhaps in the distant past and would like to give it another go. Email us at [mortimerbellringers@gmail.com](mailto:mortimerbellringers@gmail.com)

Mortimer Rainbows & Guides

A jacket with patches on it

Description automatically generated with medium confidence**Mortimer Rainbows** is re-opening in September. Rainbows welcomes all girls from 4 (must have started school) to 7 years old for play, learning and tons of fun in a colourful, safe space.

She’ll laugh, sing and make a happy mess (and help clear it up!) as she chooses her way through our programme of activities. In unit meetings, girls take part in fun activities, play games and earn skills builder badges such as camping communication or first aid, while being supported by our trained volunteers. And if she wants to take guiding home, there are interest badges to do in between unit meetings, like the book lover badge, construction badge and helper badge. If your daughter is interested, please get in touch at   
Mortimer.rainbows @hotmail.com

We are also keen to have more adult volunteers to help support. Are you able to do the unit accounts, help with administration for the unit or attend weekly meetings? If so, please get in touch. A DBS will be required.

**Mortimer Guides** (for girls aged 10-14) is at risk of closure due to lack of volunteers. Mortimer Guides has been running for over 50 years but may close this summer without more volunteers to help at weekly meetings. If you would be interested in, or have a daughter interested in joining, please contact mortimerguides@hotmail.com

This term the girls have been completing the Take Action Theme award, and the craftivism badge, upcycling clothes and creating ethically sourced recipes, also learning how to action change in their community. We have plenty of campfires, silly games and local walks planned for the rest of the summer term. Three of the girls will hopefully have earned their Gold award by the end of term, the top Guides award, after several years of hard work and fun. We have also been preparing for Wellies and Wristbands festival camp in the summer in the New Forest when live music, dancing and high-adrenaline activities collide.

Mortimer 2012 WI

A white structure with yellow flags

Description automatically generated with low confidenceTo support World Bee Day this year Mortimer 2012 WI decided to Bee Bomb the village. Members made bunting and posters and were knitting and sewing bees which we then displayed around the village. The Library and Infant School each had a display whilst Baobab was festooned with beautifully made Bee Bunting and a mobile of knitted bees. The fence along the Fairground was decorated with black and yellow bunting interspersed with posters of bees highlighting their plight. More posters were displayed by other businesses in the village including Dad’s Shop who created a display in the window beside our poster. We had more posters on stakes in land used by Incredible Edible. The plight of bees is one of the WI’s national campaigns and we intend to continue even more support next year.

Mortimer Baby & Toddler Group

We are a volunteer-led group and provide an informal, local, safe setting for parents/carers and children to chat, play and develop new friendships. Pre-booking is not required, but we recommend arriving as close to 10;00 as you can to avoid disappointment if we reach capacity in the hall.

We celebrated the Coronation by making play dough cup-cakes, having special snacks and decorating crowns.

A picture containing scale model, plant, LEGO, grass

Description automatically generatedWe have been invited by the Methodist Church to get involved with their bid to gain the ‘Eco Church Gold Award’, and have engaged the children in planting sunflower seeds, adding twigs and bugs to our bug hotel, and sticking and glueing bee pictures.

Jessica from West Berkshire Council visited to answer queries about access-related things for school aged children, and to tell us about their free App “50 things to do before you’re 5”.

Our baby corner has some lovely toys gifted from BNM to add some variety. Thank you BNM! We continue to offer 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!

**When and where is it? Tuesdays (term time) 10-11:30am** 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 Greening Campaign

Logo, sunburst chart

Description automatically generatedFirstly, apologies for not managing to progress as far as we would have liked with the thermal imaging of your homes requested at the launch in January. Imaging will resume in late autumn as we need a warm house and a cold outside (at least a 10 degree difference) to get easily interpretable results. We will re-contact everyone who requested thermal imaging or loan of the camera to create a schedule and recommence as soon as the conditions are right to start again.

In the meantime, preparation for Phase 2 is in progress! Phase 2 takes our Community effort to another level. We are all individually worried about climate change;orried for ourselves and the world around us. By moving from individual to community efforts we can make a much bigger difference and benefit from the support of each other

Nature Needs Our Help! We will receive Expert Support to learn the skills needed to change spaces in our community and make a real difference for nature.

A picture containing font, design

Description automatically generated

As a Community we will learn how we can reduce our energy consumption; energy bills – save money; and our carbon footprint – impact on the planet.

A picture containing font, logo, design, graphics

Description automatically generated

As a Community we will learn how we can keep active and well; coping with: higher temperatures; mental health affected by fears for the future; staying safe in changing times

A picture containing heart, logo, font, graphics

Description automatically generated

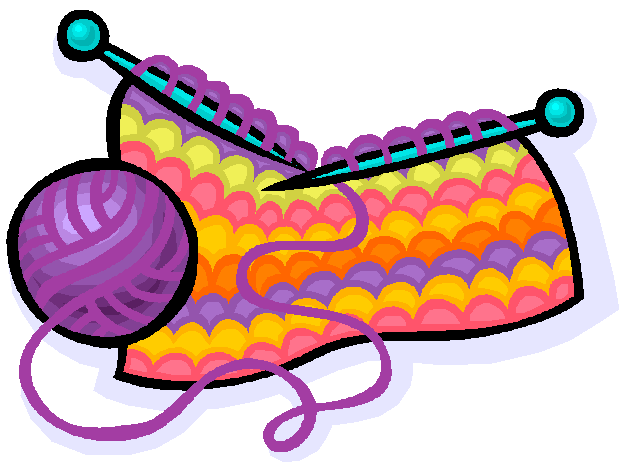
As a Community, working together, we really can make a difference! Over the coming months we will be reaching out to the many Community Groups we are lucky to have in Mortimer but please do not wait! For more information and to join the conversation:

Follow us: [www.facebook.com/GreeningMortimer](about:blank)

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

Craft Group

Craft group is thriving. Having been closed for Covid we did not know if people would come back, so glad to say they have.

Once again the ladies have risen to the occasion when asked if we could make some knitted/crochet blanket or quilts for West Berks Community hospital for their Rehab and end of life wards just to brighten the wards up. So far we have provided 6 woollen and 3quilts, with more in the pipeline.

If you would like to join us we meet 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month 1:30 to 3:30pm at the Methodist Church Hall on Mortimer West End Road. If you don’t craft, no problem, pop in for a cup of tea and a chat.

If anybody has any double-knit wool they could spare we would be very grateful. contact me, Ann Stroud, 01189331419.

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

| Affiliate | Contact | Telephone | Email |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1st Burghfield & Sulhamstead Scouts & TAO Exp.unit | Rowena Bourne | 07867 804441 | burghfieldgsl@  outlook.com chair@1stbands.org |
| 1st Mortimer Brownies | Rachel Ryan | 933 3153 | firstmortimerbrownies@  hotmail.co.uk |
| 1st Mortimer Guides | Toni Smith | 07886 524611 | mortimerguides@  hotmail.com |
| 1st Mortimer Scouts | Neil Johnson | 933 2147 | 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@alfredpalmer memorialfield.org.uk |
| B&M Volunteer Bureau | Steve Carter | 922 3365 | bureauvolunteer@  gmail.com |
| Bags2School | Peta Clark |  | petalclark@  gmail.com |
| Belle Canto Trio | Heather Sims | 970 0001 | info@  bellecanto.uk |
| Burghfield & Mortimer 1st Responders | Tom Maynard |  | thomas.maynard@  sca-charity.org.uk |
| Burghfield & Mortimer Handybus | Don Harwood | 983 6611 | thehandybus@  gmail.com |
| Burghfield Bowls Club | Gary Belcher | 07952 560781 | garybmob@  gmail.com |
| Burghfield Camera Club | Sue Totham |  | burghfieldccsec@  gmail.com |
| Burghfield Santas | Gareth Green | 07557 205224 | gareth.green@  gmail.com |
| Crafters Club | Anne Stroud |  | d.stroud2010@  btinternet.com |
| Greening Mortimer |  | 0118 933 1955 | facebook.com/  greeningmortimer |
| 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 | 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 |  | deirdreburrell15@  gmail.com |
| Mortimer Methodist Church | Daphne Cooney | 933 3051 | daphnecooney@  gmail.com |
| Mortimer Music Live CIC | Ryan Saunders | 07779 939495 | info@  mortimermusiclive.co.uk |
| Mortimer Pre School Parents Committee | Mari Fleming |  | chair@  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 | mwevhall@  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 | 933 3704 | admin@  mortimerbenefice.co.uk |
| Stratfield Mortimer Fairground Charity | Gemma Matthews |  | gemmademelza@  gmail.com |
| The Hurst Singers | Mari Fleming | 933 2805 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 |
| Wellbeing Walks | Graham Bridgman | 07770 918910 | gb@atpps.com |
| Willink PTA | Garry Strange |  | garry.strange1973@  gmail.com |

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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)

***MVP Contact Details***

**Chairman** **Doug Overett** chair@mortimervillage.org.uk 07738 470870

**Vice Julia Meadows** juliameadows@outlook.com

**Chairman**

**Secretary Gael Nicholls** gaelnicholls@yahoo.co.uk

**Treasurer** **Ali Richardson** alison.richardson1964@gmail.com

**Affiliates Rabia Anselm** affiliates@mortimervillage.org.uk

**Secretary**

*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*