

October 2023 NEWSLETTER



Mortimer Village Partnership
Enriching Village Life

Seasons may be changing, but our favourite events are back.

The June newsletter headline read... "Summer at Last", so I should probably start this newsletter with an apology for putting the kibosh on so many people's summer holidays. In future I will try to avoid any weather forecasting.

Our plans for the Autumn Scarecrow Trail are well in hand; this year's theme "**Sing-A-Song-of-Scarecrows**" has produced some fun entries including some well-known children's songs which certainly our younger "Trailers" will enjoy. See details inside.

Following the fabulous summer afternoon tea generously hosted by De Vere Wokefield for the MVP Lunch Club guests, we are delighted that as the cooler weather approaches, the club will again be offering a 2-course hot meal to our Senior Guests throughout the winter. Well done to all those involved for securing funding to continue this much-valued and enjoyed social activity.

Our popular annual Panto is **Beauty and the Beast** and this year will be after Christmas on **Saturday 30th December** and thus take some pressure off the hectic pre-Christmas calendar. I am sure both performances will again sell out quickly, so watch for advertising in the coming weeks.

Lastly, I would like to give a special mention and a big THANK YOU to our Newsletter Sponsors; **Protect & Invest** and **BatesWilcox**, who have supported us by funding the entire print costs for this newsletter over the last 2 years and have very generously agreed to continue this support moving forward. You will find their contact details on the back page of the newsletter. We are extremely lucky to have some great local companies who value engaging directly with our community by supporting activities and events; please do support them too, if you have the opportunity.

Doug Overett
Chairman

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



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

Lunch Club

Mortimer Lunch Club cordially invite elderly members of our community to join. 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 but we are very happy to welcome you if you can make your own way or have someone who can bring you.

Do you have a saloon car (easy for elderly to get in) and could you drive some guests to and from Lunch club on the second and Last Thursday of each month (11:30 -12 and 1:30 – 2)? You would enable people who can't currently get there have a great time. Please WhatsApp Rebecca on 07515 775464 if you can help.

Visiting Theatre

It's not often you see so many people tapping their feet, swinging a crossed leg or just downright clapping their hands along to the rhythm, but there was all this and more as Mortimer welcomed the ludicrously talented storytellers and singers that are Little Bulb to St. John's Hall on Saturday 30th September. In a show that had music woven through (brilliantly played on mandolin, banjo, fiddle, guitar and bass) we were transported to the Appalachian Mountains to hear the stories/ballads of the first European settlers and how these found their way into folk and country music.

From the ballads that spread the ghoulish news of death and disaster to a star turn from Dolly Parton, the show was nothing less than brilliant. It engaged the whole audience from start to finish. This is the second time they have brought their unique brand of music theatre to Mortimer and we hope it won't be the last!



Scarecrow Trail

The ever-popular Mortimer Scarecrow Trail returns for 2023 between Saturday 21 – Sunday 29 October.

This year's theme is **Sing-a-Song of Scarecrows**, so expect characters from popular films and children's rhymes. The scarecrows will be on show daily from 9am until dusk, except for the final day, when the event ends at 4pm.



To locate all the scarecrows, buy your trail maps either online at www.mortimervillage.org.uk/Scarecrow-Trail or from the usual village locations. These will be available a week before the event starts. Follow the Mortimer Village Partnership MVP Facebook page for more information about the event.

There is also a Fun Quiz about each scarecrow character. Those who spot the incorrect answer in the quiz, located on the trail map, can enter the prize draw to win a £50 cash prize. Winners will be announced on Facebook and www.mortimervillage.org.uk the week after the event ends. So, what are you waiting for? Put on your walking shoes, jump on your bike or grab your scooter and join in the fun!

Panto

Come and join us for another panto season favourite, **'Beauty and the Beast'**. This promises to be another fun and magical festive offering from the company that brought us the 'Mischievous Elf' and 'Aladdin'.

A young girl named Belle is pursued by the dastardly Prince Anton for her hand in marriage and yet she longs for something more. By an unfortunate twist of fate, she ends up in castle with a terrifying Beast. However, all is not as it seems...come to Mortimer St. John's Hall on **Saturday 30th December** for a post-Christmas, pre- New-Year family classic.

Performances at 2pm and 4:30pm

Early Bird Tickets £12 Adults, £8 under 17s until November 17th then £15 Adults and £9.50 under 17s



Tickets available here: <https://thelittleboxoffice.com/mortimervillage/>

MVP Affiliate News

Burghfield and Mortimer Volunteer Bureau

Find it difficult to get to your medical appointments?

We at the Burghfield and Mortimer Volunteer Bureau give our time and our own private vehicles to get you to your medical appointments, Hospitals, GP Surgeries, dentists and opticians.



You will be taken to your appointment from your home, we will wait with you and then return you home. There is no charge. We simply ask for a donation to cover the office running costs and help with volunteer drivers for their fuel.

We have over 300 regulars on our books and this year are nearly 50% up on the number of journeys compared with last year. We currently have a total of 25 drivers available to take you on your trip. 10 people manage the office and answer the phone on a daily rota.

During the first 5 months of 2023 our volunteers have transported 473 clients to various destinations including John Radcliffe and Churchill hospitals in Oxford, Royal Hampshire County Hospital Winchester, Frimley Park Hospital, Townlands Henley, West Berks Community Hospital and all the NHS and Private hospitals in Reading and all local GP surgeries, opticians and dentists in our area. So if you or a local relative cannot get to their appointment then we want to hear from you.

But we need more drivers and office staff. If you have a car, enjoy meeting people and are looking for a way to give some of your time to your community in this way then let us know. An allowance of 50p per mile is available to cover motoring expenses.

Finally, if you can spare a couple of hours a week to help in the Burghfield office then call us.

Please help us help others, contact us on 01189 831 814 (Mon–Fri 9:30-11:30am) or email bureaivolunteer@gmail.com

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 recently. 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.

What have we been up to lately?

Snow White came to entertain us on our last session of the summer, and to sing 'One more Step along the World' for those leaving us to start new adventures at school.

The children love messy play – and they've enjoyed planting sunflower seeds, moon sand, water play, coloured spaghetti, and playdough baking to name just a few....we do something different every week!

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 - £3.00 per parent & child. (Additional £1.00 for extra children over 12 months.)
We accept cash and card.

Do come and join us! Look out for news and information on

our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MortimerToddlers>



Mortimer Methodist Church

Gold Eco Church Award was awarded in July 2023 in recognition of the efforts to care for God's earth. The graveyard, Drury Lane, now contains wild flowers and long grass areas, a wildlife pond and wood piles for insects. Redundant car batteries are being collected for the Solar Panel fund – contact amfoymusic@gmail.com

Regular activities that are in full swing at the Church (apart from the weekly services) include:

Faith & Friends, held on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday mornings (from 9:30am) for pre-school children and their parents/grandparents/carers. There are toys, biscuits, fruit snacks and a story for the children, with lots of tea/coffee, cake and chat for the grownups. There is a warm welcome for all - especially new mums and newcomers to the village.

Who Let the Dads Out?, held on the 2nd Saturday of the month (9:30 – 11:30am) dads, granddads, uncles, carers and father figures are welcome to bring along children aged 0-10 years. A breakfast of egg & bacon roll with tea or coffee is provided for the adults. The children have a table with their own food and drinks. The adults will have time to sit and talk or be involved with their children. We have ride-on toys and a soft play area for tots, and there is a craft table for the children to practise their skills on the month's theme or do colouring.

Donations at the door. Contact klivewilliams@aol.com

Warm Welcome Space, held every Friday morning (9:30am – 12:30pm)
We welcome all men and women to come together over a cuppa to make new friends and have a chat.

Bric a Brac and Coffee, held on the 1st & 3rd Saturday morning of the month (10am – 12 noon).

Mortimer Bell Ringers – Go like the Clappers!

I'm sure you are familiar with this expression, goodness knows the connection, but the clapper is the part of the bell that swings inside and strikes the rim to make the sound.

We are responsible for three towers, St. John's in the centre of the village, St. Mary's down the hill and St. John the Baptist in Padworth. Both the Mortimer towers have had major work done in the last seven years but Padworth has had only 'TLC'.

St. John the Baptist is a lovely old church, originally Norman, built in 1088, with some of the dead of the English Civil war buried in the graveyard. Bells were installed in the 17th century then replaced in 1890. Since then, they have been maintained but like everything that has moving parts, they eventually wear out. So, 133 years later, we need to replace the clappers.

We are doing as much of the work as we can ourselves but the hand making and installing of the clappers costs about £4000.

If you feel inclined to make a donation, it would be very much appreciated. The appeal is supported by The Good Exchange who will match fund your donation so we gain double benefit. To donate, just type **Good Exchange Padworth** into Google and you should find it. Thanks!



Mortimer Dramatic Society

Hello from Mortimer Dramatic Society.

MDS are a village institution, living at St. John's Hall since 1950. In the last few years, we've upgraded both the lighting and the PA system to help our performances be even more professional.

Today we're delighted to announce our October play, the Agatha Christie masterpiece, '**And Then There Were None**': Ten strangers are summoned to a remote island. All that the guests have in common is a wicked past they're



Mortimer
Drammatic Society

unwilling to reveal and a secret that will seal their fate. For each has been marked for murder. As the weather turns and the group is cut off from the mainland, the bloodbath begins and one by one they are brutally murdered in accordance with the lines of a sinister nursery rhyme.

Join us on October 20th, 21st, 27th and 28th. Doors open at 7pm, with a reasonably-priced bar as always. Head to our website at www.mortimer-dramatic.org for more details and a link to the Box Office.

We'd also love to hear from anyone interested in getting involved with future productions. We're all regular folk who've volunteered, so you don't need drama experience, with skills needed ranging from acting to production, general DIY for set building, lighting and sound, prop making/sourcing, art and design, and so on. Or maybe you've written a script you'd like to see put on stage - we can make that happen!

Lastly, as a quick peek into the future, in January we'll be putting on an evening of theatre, puzzles and food. Perfect for a wintry evening!

Burghfield and Mortimer Photo Club



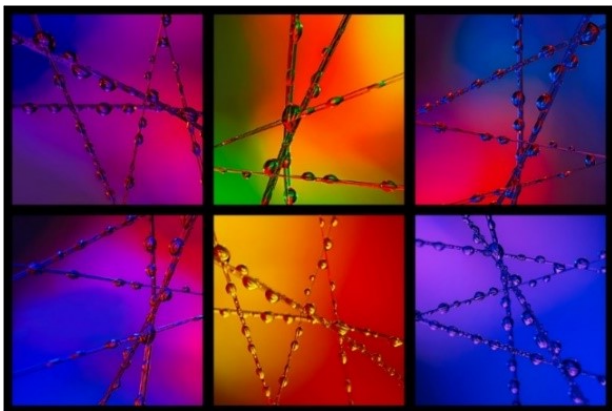
The old Burghfield Camera Club is ready to start the new season with a new name and a totally new club approach. We have a new programme, full of activities. Check it out with the new web address <https://bmphotoclub.uk/> (but the old one will still reach us.) We are concentrating on hands-on workshops and also discussion evenings, reviewing and talking about our photographs; how they were taken, problems overcome and possible improvements. So come along and join in.

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

Join us at our fortnightly meetings for hands-on workshops, photo showcases, outings, and discussions. All welcome, whether you use a mobile or a fancy camera.

If you would like to come along and try us out, email us at

burghfieldccsec@gmail.com



Burghfield and Mortimer Bowls Club

Getting Bigger and Better! 2023 has been a somewhat erratic season, with changing weather affecting greens and bowling conditions. However, Burghfield BC increased its membership with an influx of new members, with many progressing to our Tuesday evening 'Ding Dong' social events.

Our Thursday afternoon Kennet League LX men's team won their Div2 Central West League with 13 wins from their 14 matches - 2 more wins than runners-up, Pangbourne. They look forward to new challenges in the topflight next year.

Our Monday evening Basingstoke & District TL Division 1 team ended up in the middle of the table having won 7 out of their 12 matches.

Our Ladies finished runners-up in their Thames Valley Ladies League Div2. Winning 10 out of 12 matches they missed out on total points to Great Holland Linnets but beat Bracknell to the second spot by just 1 point.

Our great success this year was retaining our Oddfellows Mixed Triples League title. Beating Henley-on Thames on shot difference only, as it all came down to the very last bowl of the season with Hurst winning their final end at Henley to deny them of the crucial point.

We have 'Pay to Play' Membership for those who just want the occasional roll-up or practice and if you are looking for a club or group social event we can also arrange a session to bring a group to the Club for an enjoyable session.

As part of Burghfield CSA we enjoy all the benefits of membership of both Clubs,



some playing indoor short mat bowls during the winter. Burghfield BC welcomes anyone to attend our Open Day late in April. New players can benefit from a four session coaching course before joining the social 'Ding Dong' or playing in matches or competitions.

Find us on Facebook or visit our website: burghfield.bowls-club.co.uk

Mortimer West End Village Hall

Luckily the rain held off for our annual Family Treasure Trail, Woodland Walk and BBQ on Sunday 16th July, which was enjoyed by all. There were nine questions to answer enroute, a wordsearch and anagram sheet to pick up, and four treasures to

find (a feather, a flower, a smooth stone and a pinecone. But one sharp-eyed team also came back with photographs of all the little creatures they had seen on their way round (a white-spotted ladybird, a lizard, a frog, and a daddy longlegs, which landed on their anagram sheet. Perhaps it was trying to help solve the anagram "Send Dog Gladly"!)

Then on 26th August, the Hall hosted the annual MWE & District Show, which was a lovely occasion. More people than ever came to admire everyone's skills, and the refreshment stand did a roaring trade. See below for more detail,

As always, don't forget that the hall is available for hire at very reasonable rates. Our layout also lends itself particularly well to children's parties, for which we have a special £45 rate for full use of the whole hall for four hours.

You can also enjoy Pilates and Yoga at the Hall. More information is available at www.facebook.com/mwevillagehall mwevhall@gmail.com or 0118-970-0001.

Mortimer West End Annual Show

It was a bumper year for the Mortimer West End & District Annual Show in August, with over 30 new entrants in our competition. It's always great to see new faces and evidence that this is valuable annual event at the heart of the Village. We had lots of visitors in the afternoon, viewing the entries, playing games and as always the tea and homemade cakes were in high demand.

As you can see from the photos, there is a huge array of classes to enter, this is a just a small selection of the range of entries from our talented community.

Make sure not to miss it next year - August Bank Holiday Saturday, 24th August 2024 and follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/mweshow>



Mortimer and Burghfield Toy Library

The Mortimer and Burghfield Toy Library continues to grow from strength to strength. We have seen many new members over recent month and have been gradually working our way through the toys to clean them up, replace batteries and say goodbye to old friends that have just seen better days.....

The Toy Library is what we call a community asset. It has been running for a few decades in both villages, changed homes a few times but in the last few years has been managed by a local hero, Janet Sykes. Janet recruited the current bunch of willing volunteers a few years ago and we are always looking for more people to help us develop and grow this asset. Many of you might know that Janet herself, is very poorly, and so it feels like a good time to say thank you Janet for everything you've done to keep the Toy Library running for quite a few generations of young children and their parents.

We still get asked what is a Toy Library? It's a library of over 300 toys that are available to loan for a month at a time. By joining the library you can take out up to 15 toys a month; and we have toys for ages 0-5 years, from outdoor toys, to games, puzzles, role play, small world, baby toys etc. Each month, the 4th Saturday of that month, all the toys are brought out and the library opens its doors at the Mortimer Methodist Church for 90 minutes to receive previously loaned toys and to allow new toys to be loaned. You can follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/668562119970290/>

Bag2School

Please take a look at the MVP website for a statement from Bag2school and the local organisers about our Bag2school collection.

Next Mortimer Bag2school collection:

If you are on a collection route (you will receive a bag through your doorway if you are), please ensure bags are visible from the road outside your home by 9am on the Monday collection date or, if you are not on a collection route or miss Mondays collection then take them to either St. John's or St. Mary's schools by 9am on the Tuesday collection date.

Bag2school dates for 2024 are as follows:

Village Collection	St. Mary's & St. John's Collection
Monday 11 March 2024	Tuesday 12 March 2024
Monday 10 June 2024	Tuesday 11 June 2024
Monday 14 October 2024	Tuesday 15 October 2024



Volunteers.....We are always looking out for volunteers to give us a hand with Bag2school, in particular parents of children who benefit from the money raised for the schools. The jobs are not onerous – a route delivering Bag2school bags through doors can be done with children - and the road side collections of full bags take about 45 mins and could be even shorter with more helpers. Please email Peta (Petalclark@gmail.com) if you think you can help us.

Mortimer Local History Group

We're very happy to say that we now regularly see 25 - 30 people at our meetings (third Tuesday of the month) and we're able to keep everyone informed through the MVP Facebook page. As always, we have enjoyed a variety of topics and formats. At our April meeting we circulated a variety of old photos, accompanied by some information, and asking some extra questions about who, when and where, and this stimulated a great deal of discussion and head scratching, as well as some really helpful additions to our records. In May, Carolyn Owen presented a history of Mortimer from the Stone Age through to 1066, with copious illustrations, and we all learnt some surprising facts about our village's history. Our June meeting reflected the recent national events with a viewing of our collection of photos and albums with royal souvenirs, coronations and jubilees, and as always this set off plenty of discussion. July saw Chris Darbyshire talk to us about the old St. Mary's Church, and we can highly recommend his book which contains more detail and many of the illustrations shown in his talk. In August we had a delightful afternoon tea party at The Jackdaw, and were very lucky to have a fine afternoon to relax and enjoy the historic surroundings! Our most recent meeting was a 'special', with a visit from Philip Hume of the Mortimer History Society, telling and showing us all about the powerful Mortimer family and its connections to our village and the Reading area more generally. Philip was thrilled with the turn out and the fact that he also sold a few books! We were bombarded with dates, Rogers, Ralphs and Hughs, as well as some lovely illustrations, and I for one will certainly be following some of the Mortimer trails in Herefordshire...Pipe Aston, who knew?



Belle Canto Trio

We are very much looking forward to our concert at the Ship Inn Arts Centre at 3pm on Saturday 14th October, where we will be performing a selection of songs, some upbeat, and some nostalgic, all reflecting the title of the programme – “Autumn Leaves”. We will be joined on this occasion by Twinduo on saxophone, clarinet and piano, and afternoon tea will be served. Early bird tickets at £12 are available on Eventbrite via www.shipinnarts.org They are £15 on the door.



Although we have several bookings over Christmas and the New Year, they are all private events, but do follow us on www.facebook.com/bellecantotrio to find out when our next public concert will be taking place.

1st Burghfield and Sulhamstead Scouts

The young people of 1st Burghfield and Sulhamstead Scouts have been enjoying the recent bouts of sunshine!

Our Beaver colonies have been on hikes around Silchester ruins, visited Old Farm to learn all things dairy farming, and learned about sports by playing tennis at Riseley and golf at Calcot! They also ended the Summer term with a massive water fight!

44 of our Cubs camped out at Phasel's Wood 'Activity Spectacular'. The excitement on Friday evening was palpable as the cubs arrived and got to grips with putting up their tents, enjoying an evening snack under a beautiful sky and staying up with their tent buddies talking late into the night. Saturday morning the cubs could take part in a plethora of fun activities from inflatables, rifle shooting, archery, crate stacking, water balloon catapults, and zorbing. There were a number of exhausted cubs come evening, however a small burst of rain helped refresh them in time to dance at the disco and watch a brilliant fireworks display. Sunday saw the cubs make their own breakfast, before striking camp and heading home.

Our Scouts camped on the Isle of Wight, where despite the rain, patrols raced each other to all 4 points of the island by bus/foot, visited castles, learnt to surf, hunted for fossils, toured the RNLI lifeboat, and built rafts.

Burghfield was represented at the Korean World Scout Jamboree during some of the worst monsoon rain in recent history, but our Explorers persevered to move camp to drier areas – their original plot had not only been flooded but was now occupied by fish! The next day a South Korean heatwave kicked in (as you may have seen on the news!) and the camp became a fish-free establishment!

Burghfield and Mortimer Handybus

Our two minibuses continue to provide a transport service for our elderly and less able members of the community. In August we took a busload of passengers for a day out to the seaside in Selsey. We were lucky because we chose about the only warm, sunny day of the month and a great time was had passengers and volunteers alike. So popular was the trip that demand meant that we did it all again in September, first to Southsea then to Hayling Island.

In between these trips we also carried on our regular supermarket shopping trips, transport to social clubs and our weekly trip 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 the local supermarkets please contact us.



Providing this valuable community service is dependent on volunteers and we are always interested in anyone who might like to join us on our minibuses 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. We are also particularly keen to hear from anyone who may be able to volunteer a few hours a month in helping out with some of our administration.

Contact details: Tel. 0118 983 6611

email: thehandybus@gmail.com

South Berks Concert Band

2023 has been a successful year so far for the band, with a series of popular and well-received performances – both indoors and outside. In addition to our Spring and Summer concerts – in Tadley and Mortimer respectively – we have played five outdoor events, from as near as Mortimer and Bradfield, and as far away as Eastbourne!

We have also had several new members join us so far this year, and said goodbye to one member. We are still looking for new Trombone and Trumpet players, and are keen to recruit local musicians, so if you know of anyone who may be

interested in joining the band, then please get in touch! We offer a few weeks' free trial period.

Our next event is the National Concert Band Festival on 5th November at Wellington College. After that, we have our final concert for the year, a Christmas celebration for Mortimer and Burghfield, which will be at St Mary's Church in Burghfield on 2nd December. More details will follow nearer the time, but we hope to see many of you there. In the meantime if you wish to find out more, do follow us on Facebook, look at our website or make contact with us via email.

Email: SBCB_Music@yahoo.com

Website: www.southberksmusic.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SouthBerksConcertBand

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.

Walking 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

Mortimer PPG held their first committee meeting since July this week and welcomed back members including our two students from Willink. The main business was to discuss the possible topics for the next public meeting, to be held around the end of May next year. After the great success of our Health for the Future event this year, in which members of the Practice talked about their roles and the developments of services for patients, we are looking to return to a themed meeting on a particular condition or range of conditions. This could be mental health, perhaps a focus on autism, health and exercise, health and nutrition or any other topic which would be useful for the surgery by increasing awareness and understanding, and would also be of sufficient interest to attract a good audience! If you have a suggestion do email us and we will add it to our discussions at the next meeting.

Minutes of the meeting will be available on the Surgery website, as are slides from the Health for the Future event.

Mortimer 2012 WI



Although the unseasonal weather forced us to hold our Annual Garden Party in the Community Centre instead of a member's garden, the strawberries and cream tasted just as good indoors especially as the sun decided to shine on the Fairground for us.

We have had some interesting speakers over the last few months varying from two lovely ladies from our own Incredible Edible, an Engineer telling us everything about the electricity network to a Military Knight and his wife describing life behind the walls of Windsor Castle.

You may have seen the small group of ladies passing a ball around on the MUGA on a Thursday morning. This is us, we are playing Walking Netball. The council kindly painted Netball markings on it and the basketball hoops are ideal replacement nets. Unfortunately since Covid our numbers have dwindled as players have either moved away or suffered illness, which has meant that we could no longer afford to use the Sports Hall at the Willink. We are desperately seeking new players to join us. It is great fun and you do not need to be a WI member to play, nor do you need to be super fit or have played Netball before. The slogan is Wiggle with a Giggle and that says it all! It's much more fun than the Gym or solitary jogging and you get to socialise afterwards with coffee at Baobab. We meet every Thursday at 10:00am on the Fairground so do come and give us a go. You'll be ensured of a very warm welcome.

Save the Children



Save the Children

Thank you to everyone for attending our Midsummer Music event (which raised over £3000) and the quarterly Save the Children Kennet Branch check out jumble sales, and for donating items for us to sell.

In 2024 the sales will continue at the Methodist Church on West End Road on 30th March, 29th June, 31st August and 30th November.

Save the Children Kennet Branch have secured the stunning Long Gallery at Englefield Estate for a performance from the Boundary Players on Saturday 9th December.

Please save the date and check <https://www.facebook.com/StcKennetBranch> in the coming weeks for full details and tickets.

Together In Mission

Fancy learning a new skill whilst helping a local charity and meeting new people? TiM Friends and Café B need your help whether it's on the frontline volunteering as a befriender with TiM Friends, or helping to serve at Café B in Burghfield. Or even spending an hour helping to set up or close the café down.

We can't run these services without raising funds. Can you help us? Whether that's writing grant applications, or helping to manage local community events, or even write better adverts than this! Come and help your local charity that is run for the community by the community. We need you. Contact Emma Shumsky - emma.shumsky@gmail.com or 07931305996 for more details.



TiM Friends is the local befriending scheme and provides friendship to people in the communities of Mortimer, Burghfield and Sulhamstead and Ufton Nervet. Contact us if you wish to have someone visit you, or if you wish to visit others.



Café B is open Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:30am to 1:00pm at Burghfield Methodist Church. Come and enjoy coffee and cake or light snacks. A lunch menu is also available.

Mortimer Preschool

We are back to Pre School after a nice summer break, and it's been lovely to welcome new children and their families into the Pre School community, as well as welcoming back our returning children. The summer term ended with saying goodbye to the children who started school in September; we hope you are settling in well at school; we know you will be great!

This term's topic at Pre School has been about farms and we are looking forward to arranging some activities for the children to enjoy. We are back to our weekly PE sessions with Sporty Sarah, learning new skills and keeping active.

The children have been busy growing fruit and vegetables in the Pre School garden and enjoying eating them at snack time. A big thank you to the families who helped keep the garden watered during the summer holidays.

Autumn is definitely here now; the children have been helping with our scarecrow entry ready for the Scarecrow trail, which we hope you will visit during October half term. We are looking forward to more autumnal activities and it won't be long until we start planning our Christmas festivities!

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



MVP Affiliate Directory

The aim of MVP Affiliated group membership is to promote community cooperation and cohesion as well as providing local groups with a number of practical benefits such as: borrowing MVP equipment, laminating & photocopying, communications through use of the village website, this newsletter and Facebook and use of our prominent 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 & 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	neiljohnson@btinternet.com
1st Ufton Nerve Scout Group	Cathryn Knight	07793 196863	cathryn@uftonscouts.com
Age Concern	Tina Tomlinson	07852 557733	tubbs66.tb@googlemail.com

Affiliate	Contact	Telephone	Email
Alfred Palmer Memorial Field Trust	John Hannawin		trustees@alfredpalmermemorialfield.org.uk
B&M Volunteer Bureau	Steve Carter	922 3365	bureauvolunteer@gmail.com
Bag2School	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	garybmbob@gmail.com
Burghfield Photo Club	Sue Totham		burghfieldccsec@gmail.com
Burghfield Santas	Gareth Green	07557 205224	gareth.green@gmail.com
Crafters Club	Anne Stroud		d.stroud2010@btinternet.com
Friends of Mortimer Library	Lynn Hannawin	933 2577 / 07740 841412	lynn@i-next.co.uk
Greening Mortimer	facebook.com/greeningmortimer	0118 933 1955	alison.richardson1964@gmail.com
Incredible Edible Mortimer	Marie Worthington	07599 712209	incredibleediblemortimer@gmail.com
Made in Mortimer	Rebecca Hedges		made.in.mortimer@gmail.com
Mortimer & Burghfield Toy Library	Dorothy Harfleet	07733 297741	dorothy.harfleet@sky.com
Mortimer (St. John's) 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

Affiliate	Contact	Telephone	Email
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	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	The Oaks Office Team	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

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 members above 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

This MVP Newsletter is kindly sponsored by local firms, Protect & Invest and BatesWilcox Mortgage Solutions.



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

www.protect-invest.com

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

www.bateswilcox.co.uk

