

February 2024 NEWSLETTER



Mortimer Village Partnership
Enriching Village Life

2024 here we come....

The New Year is upon us so inside you will see articles about what to expect in the coming months both from MVP and also from many of the great organisations affiliated to us. Please do support these Clubs, Groups and Events, since it's what makes Mortimer such a special place to live.

Having recently enjoyed the fantastic theatre production of "**Mountain Music**" from Little Bulb Company and a very successful Christmas Pantomime from **Gary Starr Pantos**, we are now busily research options to bring more professional theatre to the village in 2024... look out for updates.

We are making the unusual step of an early announcement of the theme for the **2024 Scarecrow Trail**. Yes, we know October is a long way off, but it will give people lots of time to plan. Increasingly we have seen entries from local businesses and organisations and as much as they are welcome and enjoyed, it would be lovely to see more families (or perhaps groups of 2 or 3 families) getting together to put in an entry and enjoying the fun of building and displaying their very own scarecrow.

Our **AGM** will be on 12th March; obviously as an AGM this is open to the public, but actually all of our meetings are open to anyone who would like to join us, just contact me or one of the committee members on the back page to confirm date, time and location.

The **Spring Clean** is always a very important event to get the village spruced up. This year it will be on 23rd March and we look forward to seeing you on the Fairground in the spring sunshine!

Keep a close eye on our website and Facebook pages for all the latest information; you can't miss the addresses which are on the footer of every page of this newsletter.

Looking forward to a great 2024...

Doug Overett

Chairman



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

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

Spring Clean

Our "Spring Clean" litter pick will take place on **23rd March, from 2:00pm until 4:00pm** and meeting as usual on the Fairground opposite the Horse & Groom. For those who are new to the village, this is an annual event to ready our village for Spring and a great chance for you to get involved in a little community volunteering. Litter pickers, gloves and sacks are provided, we just need you to volunteer an hour or so of your time to help us keep Mortimer tidy.

Watch for more information on the MVP Website and Facebook page.

MVP AGM

MVP is always busy, working hard to deliver its motto "Enriching Village Life".

Last year we saw the Coronation Event, Spring Clean, Visiting Theatre, Lunch Club, Scarecrow trail and more. For those interested to learn a little more about the work the MVP does... and hopefully think about joining us, our AGM will be held at the Methodist Hall at **7:30pm on 12th March**.

Scarecrow Trail

This year to give people loads of planning time we can announce that the theme for the 2024 MVP Scarecrow Trail is **Myths & Legends**. This theme offers a wide range of possibilities for creating a unique and memorable scarecrow. Here are some ideas to get you started:

Medusa: A Greek mythological creature with snakes for hair.

King Arthur: Legendary British king who wielded the sword Excalibur.

Mermaids: Mythical creatures that are half-human and half-fish.

Robin Hood: A heroic outlaw from English folklore.



These are just a few examples to inspire your creativity. You can also consider myths and legends from around the world, such as Anansi the Spider from African folklore or Quetzalcoatl from Aztec mythology. The possibilities are endless! More info will follow later in the year...but get your thinking caps on!! As always, the Scarecrow trail will run in the October half-term week.

Panto

A Festive Tale as Old as Time - At the end of December, MVP welcomed Gary Starr Touring Theatre back to Mortimer as they performed their classic touring pantomime, **Beauty and the Beast**.

We roared, we cheered, we booed, we got thoroughly stuck in! Even a confessed panto-sceptic like me couldn't help but feel a warm glow at the sight of a packed St. John's Hall, full of smiling villagers and happy children, who supported the two performances of this well-known classic.

MVP is busy sourcing more quality travelling theatre for the villagers of Mortimer. Watch-out for details of future shows, including our 2024 Christmas show, in the coming months. Updates will be posted on social media and the village website www.Mortimervillage.org.uk

Lunch Club

As highlighted in the previous newsletter, the Lunch Club has been able to offer a two-course hot meal for the winter season. This has continued to be very popular and we now consistently seeing more than 30 guests enjoying a lovely meal, but as importantly the opportunity to get out and socialise with friends, which is so important during these dark, winter months. The Lunch Club team are now supported by local charity "Stable Futures" whose young adults help with the set up and put away of tables and chairs... great to see such a collaboration.

MVP Affiliate News

Mortimer Tennis Club

Do you enjoy playing tennis?

We are lucky to have access to two excellent courts on the Mortimer Fairground. Our most popular session is on Monday from 10am to noon but the club does have other slots to choose from.

We are a friendly, sociable club with players of mixed abilities so why don't you dust off your racquet and take time out of your hectic life for an hour or two.

Come along and play a game or two to see if you would like to join us. You'll receive a warm welcome. To contact us, please email info@mortimertennisclub.co.uk or call Simon on 07768 743197.



Mortimer Surgery Patient Participation Group

The group met for the last time in 2023 on the 14th December and welcomed Maryam Rizwan from Willink School who joins Holly Raynor and Iona Cola as young members who can contribute ideas and energy and at the same time learn about Primary Care which may be useful in their future careers.

Shirley Cullup chaired the meeting and read a report from Dr Bradshaw (who unfortunately had been taken ill on the day). The Practice had been affected by illness among the doctors in the previous week but was working hard to maintain accessibility for patients. The two paramedics, Gemma and Abby, are doing a great job seeing most of the acute minor illness cases now, but covered by a doctor at

all times so patients can be seen by a GP if required. Another doctor is being sought to join the practice to further improve access, especially for female patients requesting to see a female GP.

The group discussed possible topics for the next public meeting and unanimously agreed to propose the topic of diabetes, together with lifestyle and diet management, to the doctors for approval. A date towards the end of June will be determined once holidays were taken into account.

The next meeting will be on the 22nd February. Any questions or comments can be sent to ppgmortimersurgery@gmail.com.

John Bagshaw (Vice Chair)

Greening Mortimer

Thermal Imaging: Greening Mortimer successfully acquired two thermal imaging cameras last year. A number of people have stepped forward to volunteer and have been practising with the cameras over the last few months in order that they can carry out visits on properties. In general terms a typical review takes one hour to complete which is then followed by a short report providing pictures of the property's hot spots and cold spots. This provides evidence of key areas to focus on to prevent heat loss and improve efficiency.

The process is not without its challenges and is reliant on there being sufficient temperature deviation between inside and outside and generally dry conditions.

Greening Mortimer are now ready to reach out to the community to push this work forward and an invitation email has been sent out to those who signed up at the launch meeting of January last year.

SIGN-UP here: if you were not part of the original email sign up you can still sign up by sending an email to greeningmortimer@gmail.com and Greening Mortimer will arrange for a thermal imaging visit.

Science 4 (S4) Nature Group: The Group has been meeting regularly and the main progress has been made in the following areas:

- Follow up with TA Fisher on installation of swift boxes in new housing development
- Bio Diversity initiatives as follows:
 - assigning spaces to S4 members and liaising with landowners
 - highlighting various short term measures for immediate action
- Big Mortimer Nature Watch – designed to log indicator species – May 2024
- Spring/Summer presentation event – designed to cover practical aspects for the community including; making changes to your back garden; recycling tips; how to get the younger community involved
- Other initiatives included barn owl boxes and water-quality monitoring.

Mortimer and Burghfield Toy Library

Sad to say we recently saw a stalwart of Mortimer and Burghfield Toy Library leave this earth. Janet Sykes looked after the Toy Library, practically single-handed, for many years allowing this wonderful Community Project to survive. Janet helped bring the Toy Library from Burghfield to its present home in Mortimer Methodist Church hall.

In 2021 she recruited new volunteers, namely Dorothy, Helen and Claire and her knowledge, energy and devotion to Toy Library ensured we felt confident enough to carry on the legacy,

when her health deteriorated. Even in the early days of her illness she still supported us and attended sessions on a Saturday morning.

On the 4th of January, Janet's funeral was held at St. Mary's church, Burghfield. It was no surprise that the church was filled with people of all ages, paying respects to a wonderful young lady who gave so much to the community.

Rest in peace Janet and be assured that we will ensure Mortimer and Burghfield Toy Library continues to thrive.



Burghfield and Mortimer Handybus

Our two minibuses continue to provide a transport service for our elderly and less able members of the community. The cold and wet weather these past few months did not deter our hardy passengers as demand for our services continued to grow. Our minibuses are on the road all days of the week picking up passengers from their homes and taking them shopping or to local social events.

Recently we have been lucky enough to welcome on board more local volunteers, so we are currently looking at the possibility of introducing additional shopping trips or just local days out. If anyone is interested in one of these trips then please get in touch with us.

Providing this valuable community service is dependent on volunteers and we are always interested in anyone who might like to join us. 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

Friends of Mortimer Library

The Friends of Mortimer Library invite you to '**An Evening with Local Authors**'

Tuesday, 12th March, 2024 – 7:15pm for a 7:30pm start.

The writers will each give a short talk and participate in a Q & A session on how they began writing, and their journey from putting pen to paper to achieving their goal of becoming a published author.

Stephen J. Grant – False Tidings

Stephen's powerful characters lead us on an adventure to exotic landscapes, with funny mishaps happening on the way. If you enjoy fantasy mixed with humour, you will enjoy this novel.

Meredith Piper

A Message Through Time, Dream Catcher and Where Birds Don't Fly

The settings of Meredith's novels range from Georgian times to Afghanistan or even a Sioux Reservation. This is romantic fiction with a twist.

This is a free event, but please register your interest in attending, either by popping into the library or by visiting the Friends of Mortimer Library Facebook page or email info@foml.mortimervillage.org.uk

Our aim is to promote the library, encourage its use and we welcome your support. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Mortimer West End Cricket Club

Mortimer West End Cricket Club is actively seeking new playing members for our two Saturday League and Sunday Friendly teams. Our 1st XI will once again be playing in the Berkshire, Chilterns and Mid Bucks Championship and will hopefully be able to field a full strength team more frequently. The 2nd XI will play in the Berkshire League set up and we are waiting confirmation on the Division we will play in. Our Sunday XI will also have a full fixture list. New members pay only £65 membership fee in their first season. We are a friendly club with our own nets, bar and, after a lot of work over the last few months, a new storage area, which will allow us to store kit and improve our clubhouse environment. For anyone interested in playing, umpiring or perhaps scoring please contact MWECCChairman@outlook.com



Indoor nets for those playing adult cricket in 2024 start at Bradfield School on **Monday 26th February 8:30 to 9:30pm**, no charge for attendance so please get in touch and come along.

The season will start with a friendly on **Sunday 28th April**.

Our Youth team training is planned to start on **Thursday 25th April**, and we will again be running All Stars and have League fixtures for our U9, U11, U13 and U15 teams. We will hold a registration/kit swap evening on **Thursday 18th April** at the club. We'll be accepting any kit that no longer fits and loaning out the kit we have, in an effort to keep the costs of playing cricket as low as we can.

Mortimer Bell Ringers

Padworth Bells Chiming Out for Christmas: You may remember that in the last newsletter we asked for donations to help us replace the clappers in the bells at Padworth church. I am delighted to be able to tell you that with the amazing generosity of a small number of parishioners and the support of 'The Good Exchange' and Englefield Estate, we were able to raise the money quickly and the work has now been completed. The old clappers were removed by the ringers and taken to the Bellhangers, Whites of Appleton. They made new clappers, the same sizes and these were refitted by the ringers. The whole was checked over by Whites and timed to strike correctly by their laser device.

This picture is one of the new (blue) clappers being timed by Whites of Appleton. As you can see, there's not a lot of space in Padworth Belfry!

Hence, by Christmas, we were able to ring the bells of Padworth on Christmas day. That's a first for as long as I can remember!

Mortimer at Christmas: In addition to Padworth on Christmas morning, we were able to ring St. John's in Mortimer on Christmas Eve and on Christmas morning. We fortunately now have a strong band of ringers but, as always, more are welcome; new ringers or returning ringers, all are welcome.



Burghfield and Mortimer Photo Club



Burghfield and Mortimer Photo club are enjoying a varied programme of activities with much more to come. Our annual Light Painting and Fireworks evening, although really cold, was entertaining and full of fantastic photo opportunities. In December we fixed our frames and achieved our first local photo exhibition in the Mortimer Community Centre; so open to all to see.

The current photos are on a theme of hands; including the award winning image 'The Potter's Wheel' by Iain Buchanan.

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



Mortimer Local History Group

So, what have we been up to since the September newsletter? In October we had an 'all hands on deck' meeting to get as much information about the shops and services in Mortimer from about 1950 onward, and are delighted that so many people came and contributed to our knowledge. A small group subsequently met to collate all the information, and we hope to produce a board detailing some of the contributions, which will see its first outing at our Christmas Party in January (yes, I know!)

In November, Chris, one of the very knowledgeable volunteers from The Vyne, just six miles from Mortimer and with Mortimer connections, came to give us a virtual tour of this fascinating house, and also to tell us about some of the restoration work going on there. I'm sure several of us were reminded to join/rejoin the National Trust as a consequence!



Our December meeting saw Steve deliver a short 'quiz' about medieval life, which challenged some of our preconceptions. After our mince pie break, Carolyn detailed events and activities associated with past Mortimer Christmases, illustrated with some of the photos from our extensive collection. We have now had a meeting to think about our programme for the first half of the year, so watch this space...

Mortimer Baby and Toddler Group

We are a volunteer led group and aim to provide an informal, safe, local, setting for parents/carers and children to chat, play and develop new friendships. No pre-booking is required; however, we do have a set limit of places to meet safety requirements and we do get busy. We encourage Mortimer parents/carers to arrive as close to our start time of 10:00 as possible. We have recently increased our capacity as demand has grown in recent months. We operate on a first come, first served basis.



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.

Belle Canto Trio

We were very pleased to be invited to Christmas parties at the Bluebell Café (nr. Heckfield), the U3A and Bramley WI, where everyone was in a happy festive mood. We performed some of our favourite Christmas songs (ranging from *Santa Baby* to *Silent Night*) and led the audience in some well-known carols. Our next public concert will be on the evening of **Saturday 17th February** in Shinfield, where we will be celebrating 100 years of love and music. Our audience will again get the chance to join in with a few sing-along songs, and the ticket price even includes supper before the concert! We'll be returning to Shinfield at midday on 3rd August to take part in their monthly "Music at St. Mary's" concert series. Then, following our successful "Autumn Leaves" concert at the Ship Inn Arts Centre last year (www.shipinnarts.org) we have been invited back to give a "Cabaret" performance. This will be from 3-5pm on Sunday 18th August, and the ticket price (£15 on Eventbrite) will include a delicious cream tea! We hope to see you there or maybe at one of our other concerts.



Full details can be found at www.facebook.com/bellecantotrio

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 Monday's 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	Tuesday 12 March
Monday 10 June	Tuesday 11 June
Monday 14 October	Tuesday 15 October

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 roadside 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.

Crafters Club

Happy New Year to you all. We unfortunately lost three of our ladies, Ruth Fagg, Sue Elkin and Norma West. Sadly missed.

The rest of us are full steam ahead knitting, crocheting blankets for West Berks Community Hospital, while also making quilts for Project Linus and West Berks Hospital.

I would like to thank the ladies from Warm Places for their help, and a big thank you to those have donated wool and fabric.



Thanks to Terry for her wonderful Christmas stockings and the other ladies that made the Christmas quilts for Project Linus that then go to RBH prem baby unit.

Why not join us? All are welcome 1st & 3rd Fridays of the month 1:30pm to 3:30pm at the Methodist Hall on West End Road.

Mortimer 2012 WI



2023 was another busy year for Mortimer 2012 WI. We learned about Weather and Energy from two local experts, a Military Knight came to tell us about life behind the walls of Windsor Castle and we were given an update on Alexander Devine Children's Hospice. We learned about Glass Fusing and Painting, made a Christmas tree from the folded pages of a book and discussed the need for clean rivers for wild swimming. We had our usual cake stall at the Coronation Celebration on the Fairground, hosting the Cake Decorating Competition and getting very wet in the process, likewise our Garden Party was rained off and became a Summer Party in the Community Centre. In October we held a very successful Quiz Night and December saw our Christmas Party and very enjoyable lunch at the Horse and Groom. We continue to support RBH with our Emergency Toiletry Packs and now one of our members is making Eye Masks, Bereavement Bags and Syringe Bags for patients. Our membership has continued to grow during 2023 and 2024 looks set to be equally successful.

We meet on the first Wednesday of every month in the Community Centre. Come along and give us a try; March is our Annual Meeting and in April we will be learning all about Kimonos.

Save the Children



Save the Children®

Thank you to everyone from Mortimer for supporting our events in 2023.

Our Midsummer Music event returns on **Sunday 23rd June 2024** 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. Please save the date and see our Facebook page 'Save the Children Kennet Branch Events' for updates and details of how to get tickets.

Save the Children Kennet Branch's 'Check-out' jumble sales return on the following Saturdays in 2024; **30th March, 29th June, 31st August and 30th November**, 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. This year the sales will be at Mortimer

Methodist Hall, 17 West End Road, Mortimer, RG7 3TB. There will be bargains. We also welcome jumble donations at the hall from 9:30am 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 will also be providing the refreshments at the Art Café, The Old Rectory Stables, High Street, Whitchurch on Thames, Reading, RG8 7DF on various dates throughout the year please see our Facebook page for details.

Mortimer Preschool

We are continuing with our activities of 'Kindermusik with Sarah' and PE sessions with '2BActive', supported by fundraising money from events, grants and donations.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us; Clarke Educational Foundation, Mortimer Fairground Charity and The Little Village Pharmacy.

Spring term we are learning more about where we live and exploring our community.

Find out more on our website, www.mortimerpreschool.org.uk or follow us on our Facebook page 'Mortimer Pre School'.



Burghfield and Mortimer Volunteer Bureau

If you cannot 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 Hospitals, GP Surgeries, Dentists and Opticians in our area.

DRIVERS WANTED: Have you recently retired? Have a car and enjoy meeting people and chatting? Looking for a way to give some of your time to your community?

We need more drivers and would welcome **any** of your time (daytime Mon-Fri). An allowance of 50p per mile is available to cover motoring expenses.

Contact us on 01189 831 814 (Mon-Fri 9:30-11:30am) or email bureauvolunteer@gmail.com



South Berks Concert Band



2023 was a very successful year for the band, with a series of popular and well-received performances – both indoors and outside. Our Christmas Concert in Burghfield on 2nd December saw the largest audience for a number of years, and resulted in lots of positive feedback. We also took part in the National Concert Band Festival and were delighted to receive a GOLD award for our performance!

Our next event is our Spring Concert in The Link at Tadley Community Centre on 9th March. We will have some fantastic music to share with you, including Dvorak's Slavonic Dances, and selections from musicals *Wicked* and *A Chorus Line*. More information is added regularly on our website and social media pages. We hope to see you there – tickets are available from The Link, The Baobab or TicketSource.

We have a number of outdoor events lined up for the summer already, in Bradfield, Henley and Newbury. We are also going on a tour to Devon at the end of May, and preparations for this are well underway.

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.



In the meantime, if you wish to find out more, do follow us on social media, 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

X (Twitter): [@SBCBMusic](https://twitter.com/SBCBMusic)

TicketSource: www.ticketsource.co.uk/south-berks-concert-band

Burghfield Bowls Club

If you've recently seen bowls on TV and it's ignited your interest, or you just want to find out more about 'The Sport for All', then we have the perfect opportunity for you. Bowl along and have a go yourself.

Burghfield Bowls Club are holding their Annual Open Days on **Saturday 20th April** and **Monday 27th May** on the green at Burghfield CSA.

There are many benefits to be had. Bowls is:

EASY TO LEARN - You can learn how to play at your first attempt. While it's undoubtedly a game of great skill and tactics, bowls is also refreshingly simple.

COMPETITIVE AND FUN - Bowls can be treated as both a competitive sport or a fun social activity. It all depends on what you're looking for.

VERY SOCIAL - On or off the greens, bowls is extremely social, whether you turn up with a few friends for a roll-up or join a competitive team.

It helps you:

KEEP FIT AND HEALTHY The game promotes healthy living through gentle exercise, low impact movement and helps with muscle toning.

ENHANCE MENTAL WELLBEING Outdoor Bowls has a positive influence on mental health and wellbeing. It helps you get out of the house, into the fresh air, to be more active, meet likeminded people and enjoy good company.

And then it's also:

AN INEXPENSIVE SPORT It's cheap to enjoy a casual game, and you get as much activity time as you like for annual membership.

A SPORT FOR ANYONE Last but by no means least, bowls is a sport absolutely anyone can fall in love with, regardless of their age, gender, experience, physical ability or any other factor.

Burghfield Bowls Club has a reputation as being 'The Friendly Club', so join us on one of these and see what you're missing out on.

Burghfield Bowls Club, Burghfield CSA, James Lane, Burghfield RG30 3RS

For further information or to register interest

email: burghfieldbowls@btinternet.com

visit: www.burghfield.bowls-club.co.uk

or call: 0118 966 4911 / 07952 560781



1st Mortimer Scouts

Beavers: Our Beavers have been doing lots of crafting. They created a poppy field using potato prints, tissue paper and poppy seeds and made a wreath out of hand prints all to great effect in preparation for Remembrance Day.

For Christmas they made hand-printed Christmas tree baubles.

Coupled with this they have been learning about the life of Baden Powell as well as everything to do with healthy eating and have been learning how to tie their own shoe laces (with varying success!), never a dull moment as a 1st Mortimer Beavers.

Cubs: Our cubs enjoyed making some Spider cakes for Halloween and made some really good Sock Santas for Christmas.

We entered the Mortimer Scarecrow trail and came second with our three scarecrows sat round the camp fire singing camp fires burning.

They enjoyed a really great visit to the Mortimer Fire station, our thanks to Glen Hunt and the crew for putting on such a great evening They have also been learning how to use a Compass, read a map, light a fire, all adding to the fun of being a cub.

Scouts: Scouts have been working hard on their map-reading skills and general navigation. They have undertaken several short night hikes including compass walking across Pamber Common (not so easy in the dark).

Our annual October camp was held on the Isle of Wight we were very grateful to the 1st Ryde and Binstead Scout group who very kindly allowed us to their HQ. In return we cleared some of the waste land around the building to give them more useable outdoor space. We hiked round the coast from Ryde to Bembridge and then took a long bus tour round the island.

We have now turned our attention to our Cycle Tour of Normandy over the Easter holiday. This is a 4 day trip from Caen to Cherbourg. It will be the fourth time we have undertaken this expedition, this year having added significance as it marks the 80th anniversary of the D Day landings.

Rovers: Our Rovers have been on their travels after returning from Eurocampin Germany. They have travelled to the Czech Republic for a Scout Workshop weekend and shortly some will be travelling to Portugal for the general assembly of WFIS (World federation of independent Scouts).

A bit closer to home they have been hiking on the isle of Purbeck and in the Brecon Beacons.

If you would like your child to join in the fun just drop an email to info@1st-mortimer.org.uk

Together In Mission- New Year, New You

Fancy learning a new skill whilst helping your community?

TiM Friends and Café B need your support in raising funds to continue operating in your community!



Can you help fundraise by running events or writing grant applications?

Can you help with marketing or with our social media presence?

Are you interested in helping us to steward the services we offer?

Without your help we cannot continue

For more details contact Emma Shumsky on 07931 305996, or via email emma.shumsky@gmail.com Or donate via <https://localgiving.org/charity/tim/>

For more information see our website: www.togetherinmission.org.uk

Mortimer Classic Motorcycle Club

The Mortimer Classic Motorcycle Club has donated £5,000 to the Thames Valley Air Ambulance. This amount was sourced from donations, club funds and money raised from last year's scrambles at Theale.

The club was founded by two late residents of Mortimer, Joe Challis and Alf Whiting in 1934, making this year the club's 90th anniversary.

Over the last few years, the club has donated a total of £9,000 to the Thames Valley Air Ambulance. It now costs £4,500 per flight. The cheque was presented by Mike Smith, Vice President, John Dowse, Chairman and his wife Chris.

The club will be running three weekend scrambles at Theale in May, July and September this year.

For information about the club, contact John Dowse, Chairman on 01635 865591 or visit the website, mortimerclassicmcc.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	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 Nernet Scout Group	Cathryn Knight	07793 196 863	cathryn@uftonscouts.com

Affiliate	Contact	Telephone	Email
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	922 3365	bureauvolunteer@gmail.com; erleminhinnick@gmail.com
Bags2School	Peta Clark		petalclark@gmail.com
Belle Canto Trio	Heather Sims	970 0001	info@bellecanto.uk
Burghfield Allotment Club	Ruth Allen	07776 232221	r.allen4@btinternet.com
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	garymob@gmail.com
Burghfield and Mortimer 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	0118 9332577 0774 0841412	lynn@i-next.co.uk
Greening Mortimer	facebook.com/greeningmortimer	0118 933 1955	greeningmortimer@gmail.com
Incredible Edible Mortimer	Marie Worthington	07599 712 209	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	Rob Wilderspin	0778 533 3321	rob@wilderspin.org

Affiliate	Contact	Telephone	Email
Mortimer FC	Matthew Gabb	07786 631027	mortimerfootballclub@gmail.com
Mortimer Local History Group	Deirdre Burrell		deidreburrell15@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	Shirley Cullup John Bagshaw		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	Prubie Sahota	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

2024 Calendar of Event

We hope you find this new overview of what's coming up useful, we'll continue to update with each issue. **Do tell us about your future events so they can be included where possible.** These events are in addition to the regular weekly and monthly meetings held by many of our affiliated groups, their dates can be found here: <https://www.mortimervillage.org.uk/calendar>

February	March
<p>MVP Newsletter 17 – Belle Canto (Shinfield) 22 – Mortimer Surgery PPG</p>	<p>9 – South Berks Concert Band (SBCB) Spring Concert (Tadley) 11/12 – Bags2School 12 – MVP AGM 12 – Evening with Authors, Friends of Mortimer Library 22 – Sketch and Stroll (Burghfield) 23 – Spring Clean 30 – Save the Children (StC) Jumble sale</p>
April	May
<p>1 – Mortimer Fun Run 20 – Burghfield Bowls Open Day 24 – Annual Parish Meeting</p>	<p>Big Mortimer Nature Watch 6 – SBCB Bradfield May Fayre 16 – Sketch & Stroll 27 – Burghfield Bowls Open Day</p>
June	July
<p>MVP Newsletter 4 – Home Artists Coffee Morning 6 – D-Day Commemoration 9 – SBCB Bandstand (Henley) 10/11 – Bags2School 23 – StC Midsummer Music 29 – StC Jumble sale 30 – Riding Club event</p>	<p>1-4 John Lawson Circus 13 – SBCB Summer Concert St. Johns Church 29 – SBCB Bandstand (Alton)</p>

All dates subject to change – check for communications from the organisations nearer the time.

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

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