

# June 2024 NEWSLETTER



Mortimer Village Partnership  
Enriching Village Life

## Is it Summer Yet?

While it has been a long and very wet spring, I'm hoping that summer is well on its way by the time this edition goes to print and that you're ready to step outside, and in true Mortimer style, join in the next big village event!

So, what is this village event, I hear you ask! Well... **Transport Through the Ages**, is being organised by a local group of volunteers and will be held on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**. As the name suggests it will feature lots of different vehicles, spanning many decades. They will follow a procession route around the village and then there will be displays and activities on the Fairground. For more details, see the centre pages of this newsletter.

MVP is thrilled to see other groups stepping up to host big community events and will be supporting the "TTA" organising team with the loan of our event equipment. Large scale village events are such a Mortimer tradition and it is great that the village will again have an excuse to enjoy a summer community event. All things being equal, we expect to be back to holding a more traditional 'Fun Day' next summer.

As always, this edition of the MVP Newsletter features mini articles from many of our 40+ affiliated local clubs and organisations. Each group is offered a space to promote what they are up to. Such is the popularity of this section of the MVP Newsletter, that sometimes it is necessary that submissions are "trimmed" to fit the space available. If you want more information about any of our Affiliate Groups, please contact them directly (contacts towards the back of this Newsletter and on the MVP website).

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to, or attended our recent events, and, as always, do keep a look out on the MVP Noticeboard, website and social media for our future events. All that's left for me to do is to wish you a good summer.

**Doug Overett**

*Chairman*



The Queen's Award  
for Voluntary Service

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

## Spring Clean

Looking back over the recent MVP activities, we would like to thank those who braved the wet weather to support our **Annual Spring Clean** in March. This was a true demonstration of the stoic courage of Mortimer folk, who despite the rotten weather, still came out to tidy the village. While a smaller turn out than usual, the ambition was just as strong and as always a good pile of rubbish was accumulated for West Berkshire Council to take away.

## Visiting Theatre

MVP hosted a visiting children's theatre group, which brought **The Mischief and Mystery in Moomin Valley** to the village in April. Sadly, ticket sales were poor so we'd love to hear the views of parents and carers of our younger children to learn what would appeal to them in the future. Having said that we've had some wonderful feedback from those that did attend:



"Mischief and Mystery in Moomin Valley was a play that promised gentle, heart-warming entertainment, and it certainly delivered. All ages in the audience were charmed by the cleverly crafted pop-up scenes and unfolding backgrounds from suitcases and a large book, which worked so well with the simple puppets. But the big highlight was the audience participation, encouraging children to engage their imagination and become part of the

show. They threw imaginary snowballs, played under the sea and toasted marshmallows around an invisible campfire – perfect for keeping my 3, 5, and 7 year olds interested and engaged. The two people guiding the puppets (and the children!) did a fantastic job of switching the children's attention back to the next instalment of the puppet story, keeping them captivated in Moomin's journey through the seasons and his search for his friend Snufkin. We look forward to seeing what MVP brings us next!"

## Scarecrow Trail

As we hit the summer term, don't forget that it's not too early to start planning for autumn fun. The 2024 MVP Scarecrow Trail will run in the October half term week (26 Oct – 3 Nov), and in case you missed the early announcement, our theme is **Myths & Legends**.

What will you choose? Maybe an elf or dragon, a mermaid or unicorn, or what about Zorro? We'd love to see them all, and don't



forget there are cash prizes across four categories: Children's favourite, Adult's favourite, Funniest and Chairman's Choice.

More information on how to book will be on Facebook and MVP website later in the summer, but it's never too early to think of a character which you can register now by emailing: [scarecrow@mortimervillage.org.uk](mailto:scarecrow@mortimervillage.org.uk).

## Panto

This year MVP will be bringing a new professional production company to the village to entertain young and old alike with the story of **Cinderella**. There will be just one performance on **Saturday 21st December**. So, save the date, and more information about tickets and time will be included in our October Newsletter.

## Lunch Club

Mortimer Lunch Club continues to thrive with the support of a great group of volunteers. We meet on the second and last Thursday of the month for a light lunch (two course hot meal during the winter and lighter meal in the summer). We are delighted to be supported by the Handy Bus which brings some of our guests from their homes to lunch.

Latest excitement is that we have been invited to lunch by our very good friends from Wokefield Estate. The wonderful staff there treat our guests like royalty even going so far as having a staff volunteer day to tidy the garden of one of our partially-sighted guests, for which she was so very grateful.

If you know of anyone who you think might benefit from a meal and a get together twice a month please do get in touch. (Sadly we have no spaces on the Handybus service at the moment).

Rebecca Barker 07515775464

## Theatre Group

Mortimer Theatre Group returned after Covid with an extremely popular trip to London to see The King & I. 55 people were transported from Mortimer directly to the Theatre door ensuring a relaxing and enjoyable evening at a price you could not match yourself. Our latest trip at time of writing is to see Sister Act. Tickets sold out in 48 hours!

If you want to join the mailing list to get notice of future adventures, please email [mvptheatretrips@gmail.com](mailto:mvptheatretrips@gmail.com) or you can find us on Facebook.



***The MVP Committee would like to shout out our congratulations to our Chairman, Doug for being awarded the Parish Council Community Award - hugely well-deserved! – more details can be found in the Parish Council newsletter.***



### Save the Children Kennet Branch

We invite all Mortimer residents to join us on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> of June, for **'Midsummer Music' with Clive Fortune Big Band** and interval support from The Tonyx and singer songwriter Liza Marsall. We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back to the beautiful setting of Little Manor, Church Lane, Burghfield Village, RG30 3TG for a summer celebration of music, entertainment, and food. Tickets are £15.00 on the door or just £12.50 in advance and as always accompanied under 16s free. This is a child-friendly event with children's entertainment from Bubbleman, and face painting with Riniel's Body and Beauty. Doors open at 12:30pm for 1pm start. A hog roast (for an additional charge of £7.50) will be available or bring a picnic, as well as a licensed bar, raffle and games. We are able to accept card payments. For tickets please visit: <https://save-the-children-fund-bw15-kennet-branch.sumupstore.com/> or call 01189 832569. For details of all upcoming Save the Children Kennet Branch events please visit our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/StcKennetBranchok>



Save the Children®

Our popular **check-out jumbles sales** continue throughout 2024 on the following dates: Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June, Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August and Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> 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 50p entry fee. This year the sales will be at Mortimer Methodist Hall, West End Road, RG7 3ST. 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).

### 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 can get busy. We encourage Mortimer parents/carers to arrive as close to our start time of 10:00 as possible. We operate on a first come, first served basis. If you are a new parent or looking for a local baby and toddler group, please do come along and join us!



**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.



Look out for news and information on our Facebook page.

## The Hurst Singers

The Hurst Singers are a four-part choir, meeting every Thursday evening in St. John's Hall, Mortimer. We love singing a wide variety of music, from classical to modern. We are usually working towards a concert, but just getting together and singing as a group is our main motivation. It is a very friendly group, and we laugh a lot on the way to learning new pieces!

After our successful Open Rehearsal in March, our next event is a Summer Concert at Beech Hill Memorial Hall in July. This will be a summer afternoon event with cake and a glass/cup of something included.

We now regularly number 30+ at rehearsals every week. There are some

members with lots of singing experience, while others who are just keen beginners with a desire to learn, and we have resources to help less experienced people. As with many mixed choirs, male voices are particularly welcome. We offer your first four weeks free so you can see what we do. Get in touch if you are interested [thehurstsingers@googlemail.com](mailto:thehurstsingers@googlemail.com) and we can send you more details. Find out more at <http://thehurstsingers.org/>

## Mortimer Bellringers

Have you ever wondered about the bells that you hear rung in the village? The Mortimer Bell Ringers have the luxury of three church towers with bells to ring within the Mortimer Benefice. This means the band circulates Monday practice between the towers as well as ringing every Sunday morning for services at St. John's.

The largest tower is St. Mary's at the bottom of the hill overlooking the railway station. Installed in 1896 the ring of 8 bells was cast by the Whitechapel foundry in London. The tenor is the heaviest bell weighing just over half a ton at 570kg (11 cwt) and was recast from an original bell of 1702.

The second tower is St. John the Baptist at Padworth which is the oldest church in the benefice having been built in 1088, not long after William the Conqueror invaded. The current ring of 6 bells was installed in 1890 with the treble, 2nd, 3rd and 4th having been recast from bells installed at various times from 1560 -1660. The clock bell is the oldest surviving original bell having been cast in 1763, but is no longer rung.

St. John's, in the middle of the village, had its 6 bells installed at the same time as St. Mary's in 1896. The tenor is inscribed with 'Cast by Mears and Stainbank, Whitechapel / Richard Benyon, Founder of this church / C. Lovett Cameron, vicar / 1896 / In Te Confidimus'. (We trust in you).

Over the past 9 years the Band has managed to raise funds to refurbish all three bell installations with the support of parishioners, Englefield Estate Trust, AWE, The Oxford and Reading Bell Ringers Guilds, Greenham Common Trust and other charities, so all three towers are now in good repair and are regularly rung by visiting bands.

We always welcome anyone who wants to learn how to ring, or existing ringers who may want to return. Contact [mortimerbellringers@gmail.com](mailto:mortimerbellringers@gmail.com)

## 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](mailto:bureauvolunteer@gmail.com)





## Mortimer Tennis Club

Do you enjoy playing tennis? Your local tennis club has some exciting news!

Firstly, the club has negotiated a new arrangement with Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council. Club members can now book the tennis courts at a discounted fee of £2.50 per hour per court - at any time. The normal price is £5.50! So, if you play tennis regularly on the Mortimer Fairground Courts and don't belong to the Tennis Club, you might like to consider joining to take advantage of this discounted price. We are a friendly, sociable club with players of mixed abilities and will make new members very welcome.

Secondly, we are holding a series of light-hearted round-robin tournaments for members once a month during the summer. All members are very welcome to join us on 12<sup>th</sup> July, 9<sup>th</sup> August and 13<sup>th</sup> September between 5-7pm and for some refreshment at the Horse and Groom after play.

Our most popular session is on Monday from 10am to 11am but the club does have other slots to choose from. To contact us, please email [info@mortimertennisclub.co.uk](mailto:info@mortimertennisclub.co.uk) or call Simon on 07768 743197.



## Together In Mission

The TiM Line Dance evening raised almost £500 for Together in Mission.

Our thanks to everyone who took part but special thanks go to Aileen Crawford who led the dancing, Theale Social Club for hosting and Joy Davies for the cakes.

The Burghfield May Fayre was supported by Café B and TiM Friends.

Everyone enjoyed the great weather and all the activities on offer.

For more information see our website:

[www.togetherinmission.org.uk](http://www.togetherinmission.org.uk)

Your support is always appreciated. Please donate via <https://localgiving.org/charity/tim/> Thank you



## Mortimer Surgery Patient Participation Group

Do you, or does anyone in your family have Type 2 diabetes? How would you know? What can you do about it, or how can you avoid it? It is estimated that about 4 million people have been diagnosed in the UK, and another 1 million have the condition but are unaware of it. Mortimer PPG are hosting an event for all to hear from leading experts on diabetes, prevention and control on **26<sup>th</sup> June**, and you are welcome to register (free) and come along. Full details are as follows:

Title: 'Type 2 Diabetes, Health Promotion, Avoidance and Control'

Date/Location: 26<sup>th</sup> June, 6:30 – 8:00 pm at St. John's Hall, Mortimer

Speakers: Dr El Saeed, Diabetes Consultant, RBH,  
Dr Theingi Aung, Obesity Service Expert, RBH,  
Steph Irfan, 'Everyone Active' West Berkshire

Registration: To be sure of a place, by email to  
[ppgmortimersurgery@gmail.com](mailto:ppgmortimersurgery@gmail.com), or call 0118 933 2436

Other news: The surgery continues to be very busy providing a well-appreciated and well-used service in spite of some staff illness and leave affecting dispensary and phlebotomy provision. A new phlebotomist will be starting soon, and funding for the service has been renegotiated, although not applied yet. Covid boosters will be made available soon to selected patients who will be invited for them at the surgery.

John Bagshaw, (Vice Chair)

## Greening Mortimer



We were excited to launch 'The Big Mortimer Nature Watch' from 25<sup>th</sup> May to 9<sup>th</sup> June. The Greening Mortimer 'Space for Nature' group invited the whole community, including both schools, to take part in a survey of the wildlife within the village with two main aims:

- To increase everyone's appreciation of the wildlife around us
- To get a snapshot of the state of nature in the village

Thanks to anyone who took part. Volunteers will collate and analyse all the information and any interesting facts will be reported back through the Greening Mortimer Facebook and web page later in the year.

On 27<sup>th</sup> April we held a well-attended event where we heard from Englefield Estate about wildlife conservation and steps towards net zero. This included leaving wide margins at the edge of fields to promote wildlife corridors and making buildings more energy efficient with heat pumps and solar panels.



Between November 2023 and March 2024 we completed thermal imaging of 37 properties in the village. We were able to give pointers on where residents could prevent heat loss, improve insulation or fit draught excluders.

In this photo you can clearly see the heat loss through front door window panels.



We are delighted to report that the Space for Nature group has worked with 2 local farmers to erect Barn Owl nesting boxes. These have been vital in the increase in Barn Owl numbers since the 1980s and we are pleased to be playing a part in this recovery. Our thanks to the Berkshire Ornithological society for funding support and the West Berks Barn Owl group for their expertise in doing this.

We are pleased to say that we have been well-supported by SMPC, MVP and have linked with other local groups to coordinate all our efforts to make the most impact. Website: <https://www.facebook.com/GreeningMortimer/>

Email: [greening@mortimervillage.org.uk](mailto:greening@mortimervillage.org.uk)

## Burghfield and Mortimer Handybus

Our two minibuses are as busy as ever providing a local transport service for our elderly and less able members of the community. Regular supermarket shopping trips, transport to social clubs and our regular trips to Newbury and Basingstoke shops are keeping our volunteers working hard. With winter behind us we have just completed our first spring outing, a day trip to Whitchurch Silk Mill where a good time was had by all our passengers. Further social trips to local garden centres and other local places of interest are planned. And as the sun has started to shine (at last) we have turned our minds towards some trips to the seaside in the summer. Watch this space.

Because of demand we have started another Sainsbury's shopping trip on a Wednesday afternoon. We have some seats available on this new run so if you are interested in a door-to-door transport service to the local supermarket 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.

Contact details: Tel. 0118 983 6611

email: [thehandybus@gmail.com](mailto:thehandybus@gmail.com)

## Burghfield and Mortimer Photo Club



Burghfield and Mortimer Photo club have had an amazing series of workshops and photo presentations.

A number of practical workshops have been producing outstanding outcomes. Do look at some of the results (Autumn and Abstract) on show now in Mortimer Community Centre.

We also had a wonderful evening photographing some of the South Berks Concert Band, who brought us a fascinating variety of instruments. We're very happy as a club, to take photos of Mortimer Village Partnership members for their publicity, and make it a fun valuable evening for everyone; so do get in touch.

We were also very pleased to have a first place winner in the Royal Photographic Society Digital Imaging Specialist Group competition for the subject of 'People'.

And now, as hopefully the weather is improving, we will be venturing outside for some outdoor photography.

If you would like to come along and try us out, email us at [burghfieldccsec@gmail.com](mailto:burghfieldccsec@gmail.com)



## Mortimer Local History Group

Our year of meetings started, as it always does, with our Christmas Party in January, and as usual we had a lovely selection of food contributed by attendees, and a free bar courtesy of the 'committee'. There was a local history element too, in the form of a quiz, with much collaboration and not too much competition! In February, Carolyn continued our general history of Mortimer, and picked up where she had left off last year, i.e. after the Norman Conquest. We learnt what life would have been like for the inhabitants of Stratfield Mortimer in medieval times.

Continuing that theme, in our March meeting Chris talked to us about the Lords of the Manor of Stratfield Mortimer, from the first Ralph de Mortimer in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, up until Sir Richard Benyon in the 19<sup>th</sup> century...trying to keep track of the various Benyons and their relationship to each other required major concentration and frequent diagrams. We can still see what the Benyons contributed in the village today, from the rebuilding of St Mary's church, to the school and the cottages. The Mortimer Men's Club, built in 1892, has only relatively recently been

demolished. It was all hands on deck for our April meeting, where we looked at many of the mysterious brown envelopes that make up a large portion of our archives, most of which haven't been seen by current members of the group. Contents were sorted and lists were made, all of which will be typed up to make them more searchable. We are in the process of setting up a website, and digitising our collection, but it's going to be a work of several years...or decades...



## Friends of Mortimer Library

We are so lucky to have a village library. It is so important to use it. We certainly wouldn't want to lose it.

Our first literary event, as the newly-established Friends of Mortimer Library, held in March, was enjoyed by an appreciative group who were entertained by Stephen Grant and Meredith Piper, two local authors, who explained how they came to write and be published.

We're delighted that our next event will take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 7:00 for 7:30pm and our speaker will be Tania Crosse, a local resident, known to many of you. Tania is a highly-acclaimed, award-winning writer and an excellent story teller, whose books are highly researched and well-presented. Her stories are heart-warming, historical sagas. Do join us in the library for this very special evening.

Future events will follow, including Saturday morning sessions on Poetry Appreciation, Creative Writing and Computer Skills.

Why not pop into the library to check out our range of books and other services or visit with your babies and toddlers for our weekly Rhyme Time session. We run Book Groups and we are always happy to signpost information. We have a new Lego Club and have just introduced a jigsaw exchange.

The ever popular Summer Reading Challenge this year is called Marvellous Makers and it's all about Creativity. It provides free access to books and Fun Family Activities for children from 4 – 11 years old throughout the school holidays. Look out also for Craft sessions for children, during the summer.

Drop in, say hello, and find out what's going in. Perhaps you have ideas for future events. We'd love to hear from you.

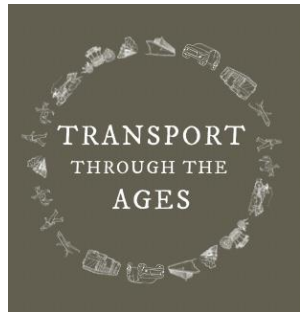
For further information please email us at [info@foml.mortimervillage.org.uk](mailto:info@foml.mortimervillage.org.uk)

## Mortimer's Summer Extravaganza is back!

Missing the Mortimer Fun Day? Looking back fondly on the Jubilee Celebration and the Coronation Day? Then fret no more!

On **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June** you can join in a day of family fun, with something for everyone to enjoy! The village's inaugural celebration of **Transport Through the Ages** begins with a procession through the village of vehicles of all kinds: veteran, vintage, classic, modern, steam-powered, electric and bikes!

This will set off at 11am from the Groves Lea roundabout, led by The Scottish Pipe Band, and including Scouts and Guides from Mortimer and Burghfield.



The procession will follow the route of the Jubilee procession, circle through the village along Victoria Road, around West End Road and back up the Street, before ending at The Fairground.

It has an amazing collection of vehicles, from the very first electric vehicle to be seen on UK roads: a real-life Sinclair C5 to the latest Tesla. From the smallest Bubble Car to the mightiest juggernaut. And this time not 1 band but 2!



But the excitement doesn't end there! It will be a jam-packed day of entertainment. Live music featuring local bands, including Nicollette Street, The Rag and Moan Men and The Willink's own Squint and Blindspot! But not only music throughout the day, but plenty of other things to do too.



At time of going to print this is our provisional timetable and some of the other activities on the Fairground, but do watch out for further updates on the day.

11:30	Willink Brass Band
12:00	Pipes and Drums
12:10	Nicolette Street
12:30	Dog Show begins
13:40	Pipes and Drums
14:25	Squint
15:05	Children's Olympics
15:30	Squint
16:10	Tug of War
16:30	Headline Act – to be revealed soon

- ☆ **Dog Show** for your canine friends, which you can enter on the day.
- ☆ **Stalls** selling their wares and produce.
- ☆ **Food options** from local companies: Mortimer Sausage Company, Gourmet Queens, and Burghfield Spices.
- ☆ **A bar** (of course) selling local beer, lager, wine and soft drinks between noon and 6pm.
- ☆ **Static showcase** of vintage, veteran and supercars.
- ☆ Plus, thrills and spills of the **Funfair** (from noon until late).

Organised by Mortimer’s Transport Through the Ages Group, working with The Rotary Club of Reading Matins, all proceeds will go to local charities, including Sue Ryder Thames Valley. We’d like to thank Mortimer Village Partnership and The Willink School for their support in making this event happen!

If you would like to take part, or simply lend your support in any way, please contact us at: [volunteersmortimer@btinternet.com](mailto:volunteersmortimer@btinternet.com)



22<sup>nd</sup> June 2024, Save The Date.  
We look forward to seeing you there!



## Mortimer West End Village Hall

This year our ever-popular **Family Treasure Trail and Woodland Walk** will be held on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> 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 barbie! 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 24<sup>th</sup> August. Show off your skills at art, photography, baking, crafts or vegetable or flower growing, or just come along and enjoy the skills of others. Schedules will be available in Mortimer shops, and to download from [www.facebook.com/mweshow](http://www.facebook.com/mweshow) and <https://www.mortimervillage.org.uk/calendar-items/mwe-district-show>

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 £55 rate for full use of the whole hall for four hours.

## Mortimer West End Cricket Club

The cricket season is finally beginning to show some signs of life after April and May showers left us in hibernation for longer than we would have wanted.

Both adult and junior cricket is up and running and both sections of the club would welcome new members. Adult nets are on a Tuesday evening so please do come along if you are looking to play competitive league cricket on a Saturday or friendly cricket on a Sunday

On Thursday evenings our youth section coaching starts with All Stars for 5-8 year olds and proceeds through all age groups to U15.

The bar is open for parents and on a sunny evening there is little to beat watching a buzzing recreation ground.

For anyone interested in playing, umpiring or perhaps scoring please contact [MWECCChairman@outlook.com](mailto:MWECCChairman@outlook.com)



## Burghfield Allotment Club

Following our very successful re-launch of the Burghfield Produce Show last year we are pleased to announce our second show will be held on **Saturday 10th August** at 2:30pm in the Methodist Church Hall, Burghfield Common. We have increased our classes from 6 to 11 and our categories from 43 to 72 so we hope to encourage lots of entries.

Our classes are: Vegetables, Fruit, Flowers, Sweet Domestic, Savoury Domestic, Flower Arranging, Photography, and Handicraft. We also have classes for children up to and including 8 years old and for children 9 to 15 years old. Our final category is sponsored by Burghfield Parish Council who have donated a cup for the Best Kept Allotment.

To accommodate these exciting changes we are hiring a marquee as well as the Church Hall and are very grateful to the Parish Council for supporting this.

All are welcome to visit our show, enjoy tea and cakes and buy from our Plant Sale and Bric-a-Brac stall. Visiting the show is free and category entries are 50p each. We look forward to seeing you all.



## Mortimer 2012 WI



May 20<sup>th</sup> is World Bee Day and once again Mortimer 2012 WI adorned our village with black and yellow bunting and posters highlighting the plight of our Bee population. This year we were assisted by the Methodist Church and Baobab, Dads Shop, The Bistro and Incredible Edible hosted our displays of knitted bees and posters. The children in Foundation at St John's Infant school had a talk and story about bees as part of their lessons on Food and Farming and all received bee stickers. We intend to continue this every year so if any other organisations would like to join us they would be very welcome.

June sees the start of our new programme of speakers for the year and once again they are quite varied. We start with Are you having trouble Sleeping?, hear about life as a Journalist, enjoy some Sweet Indulgent Cake, not forgetting the Summer Garden Party and our Christmas Party with lots more in between.

We meet on the first Wednesday of every month in the Community Centre opposite the Horse & Groom. Do come along and give us a try.



## Mortimer Methodist Church – Eco Church

The A Rocha story began in 1983, when co-founder Revd Peter Harris moved from Liverpool to Portugal and set up a Christian conservation charity A Rocha (meaning 'A Rock' in Portuguese). He returned to the UK in 2010 creating Eco Church by embracing and responding to the global crisis in biodiversity loss, ecological monitoring, and research in area of high value for wildlife, practical measures for conserving and restoring habitats and flora and fauna.

Eco Church is a diverse community of Churches supporting environmental stewardship. Mortimer Methodist Eco Church journey began its eco-journey in 2019, focusing on carbon footprint reduction, energy monitoring, full LED lighting and environmental auditing. In 2022 we achieved the silver award. Our Church's ambition of a gold was based on the five principles – Worship and Teaching, Buildings, Land, Lifestyles, Community, and Global Engagement.

In 2023 the Greening Mortimer group showcased climate initiatives, including thermal imaging for residential heat loss assessment.

Our gold award criteria required lifestyle surveys, sustainability biodiversity increase, wildlife. Nature in crisis. A 38-page document of supporting evidence was compiled and at that point A Rocha further requested CHURCHYARD FOR NATURE. Our Eco Church team modified Drury Lane's burial ground, creating a pond, hedgehog abode, log piles, wildflower gardens, wildlife habitats, long/short grass policy, and water retention and run off.

Our Eco Church global engagement is by interaction, donating, and sharing our cares with five West African Nations on Tree Aid.

The Greening Mortimer event this April was a community-driven movement empowering individuals to incorporate eco-friendly practices into their daily lives.

## Mortimer Pre-School

The summer term has been busy with the children learning about the environment through a number of different activities; spending time in the garden area helping to plant new flowers and herbs, growing their own sunflowers and learning about insects. Pre-School joined the village celebrating World Bee Day; learning about bees and counting the number of bees they saw on the way to Pre-School.

We will be preparing to say goodbye to some of our children who will be 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.



You may not realise but the Pre-School relies on charitable donations and support from the community. If you would like to help support us we are registered with #Easyfundraising, which is completely free to sign up to and shop online and in return raises donations for us. Any contribution is greatly appreciated. You can find our Easyfundraising page [at https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/mortimer-pre-school/](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/mortimer-pre-school/)

## Mortimer & Burghfield Toy Library

Mortimer and Burghfield Toy Library had the privilege of hosting a service tent at the recent May Fayre. As in previous years, we were visited by lots of children and adults, looking to take a break from the hustle and bustle of all the Fayre activities. Our tent was certainly a colourful retreat and I'm sure the adults as well as the children enjoyed our bubble machine.

It was delightful to see so many small people enjoy the toys and we were able to inform adults how the Toy Library works. For visitors from much further afield they were surprised to learn that such an organisation existed.

The Toy Library continues to grow and we are currently in the process of moving our records online, meaning that in the future our members can chose toys from our vast selection, from the comfort of their own home.

Like all voluntary organisations we are always looking for helping hands. A few hours once a month can make all the difference to the smooth running of our Saturday morning session and it is great fun.



## Mortimer Wellbeing Walks (formerly Walking for Health)

Wellbeing Walks is a programme 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 below), offering you an opportunity to meet new people and explore the beautiful countryside around the village. The walks are extremely popular and on top of locals we regularly attract people from as far afield as Basingstoke, Bramley, Thatcham, Baughurst and Tilehurst, as well as the closer villages.

Every Tuesday, rain or shine, 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 taking 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!).

It's easy to start walking with us - just turn up 15 minutes before the start of the walk you want to join 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 and has been shown to improve self-esteem, relieve symptoms of depression and 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!



## Belle Canto Trio

Belle Canto Trio started the year in a celebratory mood! In February we helped Maiden Erleigh Inner Wheel to celebrate their centenary. Then, in March, it was Old Basing WI's 105<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and in April we sang at a 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party in Beech Hill. In between we entertained the residents of Oakridge House, and performed a Valentine's Day programme in Shinfield Church Hall.

Now we are preparing a new Cabaret programme to perform at a number of public and private events. Your chance to see its "world premiere" ☺ will be at 6:00pm on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June at St. Mary's Beenham. This is followed by a 7:30pm performance on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July at St. Stephen's, Baughurst. We'll also sing a selection of these songs as part of Shinfield's "Music at St Mary's" lunchtime concert series at midday on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August. The full Cabaret programme was actually created at the request of the Ship Inn Arts Centre ([www.shipinnarts.org](http://www.shipinnarts.org))

after our very successful concert there last year. Come and enjoy our performance over a delicious afternoon tea at this delightful cosy venue between 3:00 and 5:00pm on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> August.

More information about Belle Canto Trio and how to get tickets for these concerts can be found at [www.facebook.com/bellecantotrio](https://www.facebook.com/bellecantotrio) or see our contact details at the end of this newsletter.

## South Berks Concert Band

The band has had a good start to the year. Our Spring Concert on 9<sup>th</sup> March at Tadley went very well, with a large and appreciative audience. We also performed at Bradfield on Bank Holiday Monday, which was well attended by the local community despite the weather!

Our next event is our Summer Concert at St John's Church in Mortimer on the 13<sup>th</sup> July. We will have some great music including several pieces by Gershwin, and music from Robin Hood, Prince of Thieves, War Horse and more. More information is added regularly on our website & social media pages. We hope to see many of you there – tickets are available from The Baobab or TicketSource.

We have a number of other outdoor events lined up for the summer, in Henley, Newbury and Alton. By the time the newsletter is published, we will also have been on a tour to Devon.

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](mailto:SBCB_Music@yahoo.com)

Website: [www.southberksmusic.org.uk](http://www.southberksmusic.org.uk)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/SouthBerksConcertBand](https://www.facebook.com/SouthBerksConcertBand)

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

TicketSource: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/south-berks-concert-band](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/south-berks-concert-band)



## 1<sup>st</sup> Mortimer Scouts

**Beavers:** Our Beavers tried out eating only green foods for St Patrick's day, an interesting experience! They have been learning to make tracking signs in the woods and to strike a flint and light a match safely as well as all the fun and games that come with being a 1<sup>st</sup> Mortimer Beaver.

**Cubs:** Our cubs enjoyed a really exciting and fun winter camp at our HQ entitled "On the Wild Side". We also welcomed Cubs from other packs who came to join in

the fun. They all had the opportunity to gain some badges in Map Reading; learning about map references, map symbols and signs and contour lines. Model making; where they made some fantastic string puppets. Sign Language; where they learned how to say Hello and Goodbye as well as a sign language song. Backwoods badge; learning how to light a fire and cook a simple meal including cooking pizza in a Dutch oven.

**Scouts** The scouts embarked on an extensive training programme in preparation for our cycle tour of Normandy covering varying distances and in different weather conditions. There is too much to say about the amazing Normandy trip to include here but please read about our highs and lows in the full write up on the MVP Website. <https://www.mortimervillage.org.uk/Organisation/1st-mortimer-scout-group>

**Rovers** Our Rovers have continued working hard on the renovation of our HQ, a new window aperture has been created and racking installed for all our equipment. They are now planning a Canoe expedition on the Thames as well as organising a hiking challenge in the Brecon Beacons where Groups from all over Europe will be competing.

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

## Mortimer Dramatic Society

Mortimer Dramatic Society Wows Audiences with Latest Play - Mortimer Dramatic Society (MDS) successfully put on its' latest play, 84 Charing Cross Road at St John's Hall, Mortimer in May. This is a charming play based on real-life letters between Helen Hanff based in New York and Frank Doel, Chief Buyer at a book shop on Charing Cross Road in London.

Received with great acclaim from all who came to see it and there was a real team effort to make it a roaring success.



We are always looking for new members including a team to help with the wardrobe as well as anyone interested in other back stage roles and of course any budding actors. Please contact us if interested and we would be delighted to hear from you: [info@mortimer-dramatic.org](mailto:info@mortimer-dramatic.org)

Look out for the next play in October and hope to see you there! [Www.mortimer-dramatic.org](http://www.mortimer-dramatic.org)

## 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			gsl@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 196 863	cathryn@uftonscouts.com
Age Concern	Tina Tomlinson	07852 557733	tubbs66.tb@gmail.com
Alfred Palmer Memorial Field Trust	John Hannawin		trustees@alfredpalmermemorialfield.org.uk
B&M Volunteer Bureau			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	garybmob@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

Affiliate	Contact	Telephone	Email
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
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 297934	MWECCChairman@outlook.com
Royal British Legion	Tina Tomlinson	07852 557733	tubbs66.tb@googlemail.com



Affiliate	Contact	Telephone	Email
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 Events

These local events are in addition to the regular weekly and monthly meetings held by of many of our affiliated groups, their dates can be found here: <https://www.mortimervillage.org.uk/calendar>

June	July
<b>MVP Newsletter</b> <b>22</b> - Transport through the Ages <b>23</b> - Save the Children (StC) Midsummer Music <b>26</b> – Patients Participation Group Diabetes prevention and control event <b>29</b> – StC Jumble sale <b>30</b> – Riding Club event	<b>1-4</b> John Lawson Circus <b>2</b> – Friends of Mortimer Library event <b>13</b> – South Berks Concert Band Summer Concert St. John’s Church <b>14</b> – MWE Treasure Trail
August	September
<b>10</b> – Burghfield Produce Show <b>24</b> – MWE and District Annual Show <b>31</b> – StC Jumble sale	
October	November
<b>MVP Newsletter</b> Mortimer Dramatic Society production <b>26</b> – MVP Scarecrow trail starts	<b>3</b> – MVP Scarecrow trail ends <b>30</b> – StC Jumble sale
And don't forget <b>21<sup>st</sup> December</b> , Save the Date for our Panto - <b>Cinderella!</b>	

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

## **MVP Contact Details**

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Doug Overett</b>	chair@mortimervillage.org.uk 07738 470870
<b>Vice Chairman</b>	<b>Julia Meadows</b>	juliameadows@outlook.com
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Gael Nicholls</b>	gaelnicholls@yahoo.co.uk
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Ali Richardson</b>	alison.richardson1964@gmail.com
<b>Affiliates Secretary</b>	<b>Rabia Anselm</b>	affiliates@mortimervillage.org.uk

*MVP committee meetings are held at 7:30pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.bateswilcox.co.uk)

