

# October 2024 NEWSLETTER



Mortimer Village Partnership  
Enriching Village Life

## Autumn Leaves and Village Delights

As the season changes and the nights begin to draw in, Mortimer comes alive with exciting events to help brighten up our Autumn days. This edition is packed with news of village activities in the coming months, including:

- **"Myths & Legends" Mortimer Scarecrow Trail** - A half-term adventure for all ages. Maps on sale soon!
- **Christmas Pantomime "Cinderella"** – Coming to Mortimer on **Saturday 21 December**, performed by the talented Shooting Stars Entertainment. See inside for details of the Early Bird ticket offers.

Plus, don't miss updates from our affiliated groups on their seasonal plans too!

**Summer Joy:** Just before the summer holidays, the Transport Through the Ages event was a resounding triumph! Huge congratulations to the organising team for a fantastic day. MVP played a vital role, providing lots of equipment including marquees, gazebos, bins and bunting! We also rallied a team of 17 MVP volunteers at short notice to help set up and takedown at the end of the day. This allowed the TTTA team and their volunteers to focus on providing a safe, but incredible parade. A big **THANK YOU** to everyone involved.

**Looking Ahead to 2025:** Mark your calendars for the return of the **MVP Fun Day** on **Saturday 5 July!** After the recent spectacular village events to celebrate the Jubilee, Coronation and Transport Through the Ages, MVP is thrilled to announce that next year there will be an "Old School" family-oriented summer celebration. Expect a free, enjoyable day featuring headline arena acts and classic village fair games.

Want to be part of the planning? We'd love to hear from local groups and individuals who want to join us as we begin the planning process.

Email me: **[chair@mortimervillage.org.uk](mailto:chair@mortimervillage.org.uk)**

Let's make this autumn, winter, and the upcoming Fun Day truly memorable!

**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)*

## Scarecrow Trail



This year's Scarecrow Trail in Mortimer promises an amazing display based on the theme of **Myths and Legends!** Expect dragons, mermaids, an abominable snowman, Robin Hood and Marian, and even a basilisk and a cyclops among other literally fantastic entries! The trail runs from **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> October to 4pm Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2024** – over the school half term week. You can see all the scarecrows from 9am until dusk (when some will mysteriously vanish, only to reappear the next day). As usual, entries will be appearing all over the village, all within walking distance. Trail maps will be available to buy for £1.50 from local shops, including Dads Shop and The Co-op. The map will also be available to purchase online through the Mortimer Village Partnership website: [www.mortimervillage.org.uk](http://www.mortimervillage.org.uk) Just follow the links for an easy download and printable version.

There is a trail quiz competition for all those who have purchased a map, with questions being displayed at each scarecrow site. The winner will be drawn from among all the correct entries and will receive £50. You can also vote for your favourite scarecrow in a variety of categories: the funniest, the adults' and children's favourites, and brand-new categories: the best newcomer, the best traditional, and even the most eco-friendly! Please come along and admire the creativity of Mortimer's residents - you're guaranteed a chuckle and some exercise, and if this inspires you to take part next year, or you have any questions about the trail, please email [scarecrow@mortimervillage.org.uk](mailto:scarecrow@mortimervillage.org.uk)



Some of our past scarecrows can also be viewed in the gallery section of the website. Huge thanks to our local sponsors for support in covering costs of printing and the makers' prizes and to Pierdell Construction for providing toilets in the Community Centre Car Park!

## Christmas Panto - Cinderella Comes to Mortimer

New for 2024, MVP is delighted to welcome professional touring theatre company, Shooting Star Entertainments, to St Johns Hall, Mortimer, as they perform **Cinderella on Saturday 21 December.**

This traditional family show is suitable for all ages (3 – 95 years) and is the perfect family event this Christmas. Tickets are on sale now, **prices start at just £12 for under 17's.** Early birds, booking before 1 November, can save up to 25%.

There will only be **one show**, so we advise booking your tickets early. This show starts at 2pm and promises to be packed full of great songs, adventure, slapstick

comedy and thigh slapping heroics. With only 100 tickets available this year, we expect them to be some of the **hottest tickets in town!**

For more information, and to book, visit: [https://bit.ly/MVP Theatre](https://bit.ly/MVP_Theatre)

**Can you help us?** MVP is looking for volunteers to help for a couple of hours on 21 December. We need assistance with set up, running the bar and tuckshop, managing door admissions and clear up for each show. For more information, or if you can offer your time, please email Julia at [juliameadows@outlook.com](mailto:juliameadows@outlook.com)



## Lunch Club

If you are an older member of our community looking for company then the Mortimer Lunch Club might be just what you are looking for. We are always happy to welcome new members. We meet on the second and last Thursday of the month at the Community Centre for a two-course hot meal and the opportunity meet old friends and make new ones. If you are interested in attending, then please call Rebecca on 07515775464 and I can tell you more.

## MVP Theatre Trips

Want to go to London to see some of the latest shows but don't like the hassle of getting yourself there and back, not to mention the increasing costs of theatre tickets? Then the MVP Theatre Group might be just what you are looking for. We organise coaches to take up to 55 people directly from Mortimer to the theatre front door and at a fraction of the cost you could do it for yourself. If you would like to join the mailing list to be the first to know of our next trips, then please email [mvptheatretrips@gmail.com](mailto:mvptheatretrips@gmail.com) or join our MVP Theatre Trips group on Facebook. This year we have been to see The King & I and Sister Act and by the time you read this we will shortly be going to see Fawlty Towers!

## MVP Affiliate News

## Friends of Mortimer Library

Have you visited Mortimer Library recently? It's a great place to stop and browse. Small is beautiful. I never fail to find books that interest me, and if you are looking for something that isn't in stock, the library will order it for you. But libraries are so much more than books. Pop along and discover the events that are happening and the services on offer.

The Friends of Mortimer Library (FOML), a small group who are keen to promote greater use of this village treasure, held our third literary event in September. It

was such an enjoyable evening with a great turnout, who braved the rain to hear Katie Hannawin speak on fascinating facts on books and printing from the 15<sup>th</sup> century to modern day. She is knowledgeable on and passionate about her subject and was a delight to listen to.

Our next talk will take place at the library on **Monday, 18th November**, 7:00 for 7:30pm when David Evered, a local resident and published author, will tell us how he went about writing novels, the background research and working with publishers.

Over the next two months we have also arranged the following taster sessions:

19<sup>th</sup> October 10:30 - 12:00 Poetry Appreciation

23<sup>rd</sup> November 10:30 - 12:00 Creative Writing.

For more information about any of the above then please email [Info@mortimerlibraryfriends.org](mailto:Info@mortimerlibraryfriends.org). And to keep up to date with "all things library" please like and follow our Friends of Mortimer Library page on Facebook.

## Burghfield and Mortimer Photo Club



Your local photography club is back in full swing; we've already had the results of our summer challenges, a workshop on mounting photographs and an evening playing with trains while honing our motion photography skills.

What are we planning for the next month or so? There'll be an after dark photography evening in Reading, a fun evening with Thatcham

Photo Club and a couple of workshops - one on focus stacking and another learning all about the benefits of photo editing, whether we use our phone software, photoshop or any other software to get the best out of our images. Come along and see what a difference a little editing can make.

We are a small, friendly group who enjoy taking photographs, increasing our skills and then sharing the results. Why not come along and have some fun, we meet every other Thursday evening in St Oswald's Church Hall at 7:45. See our website for more details: [bmphotoclub.uk](http://bmphotoclub.uk) or email [burghfieldccsec@gmail.com](mailto:burghfieldccsec@gmail.com)

## Save the Children Kennet Branch



Firstly, a huge thank you to everyone for the jumble donations for our jumble sale on Saturday 31st of August, we can't do these sales without you, the sale raised over £850! If you enjoyed the check-out jumble sales at Mortimer Methodist Church, 17 West End Road, Mortimer RG7 3TB or have items to donate our next sale is on **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 10:30am**.

We have jumble sale dates for 2025 for your diary, these are: Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March, Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May, Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August and Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November.

If you need Christmas cards this year we will be selling a wide selection of lovely Save the Children cards at the Herd Farm Christmas Market, Peppard Road, Sonning Common, RG4 9NJ 10am - 4pm on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November and at the Whitchurch Art Cafe, The Old Rectory Stables, High Street, Whitchurch, RG8 7DF on the 14<sup>th</sup> December from 10:30am where we'll also be providing the refreshments including home made cake.

For updates on all our events or to contact us if you would like to volunteer with Save the Children Kennet Branch please visit our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/StcKennetBranch>

## Mortimer Dramatic Society

Game of Spies comes to Mortimer! Come and see Mortimer Dramatic Society's latest production Spygame and enjoy an evening of entertainment and a three course dinner. Spygame is a comedy thriller running over 4 nights: **18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> October** at Mortimer Village Hall. Tickets at £30 will be in high demand and to book your seat visit [www.mortimer-dramatic.org](http://www.mortimer-dramatic.org)

**SPYGAME**

Survive the game, win the prize... They think it's easy.

**October 18, 19, 25, 26**

Tickets £30 | Doors 7:00pm  
Performances start 7:45pm

info@mortimer-dramatic.org | www.mortimer-dramatic.org | 0118 230 1951 | St John's Hall, Mortimer

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

## South Berks Concert Band



2024 has been a great year so far for the band, with successful performances – indoors and outside – and growing audiences. In addition to our Spring and Summer concerts – in Tadley and Mortimer respectively – we have played four local outdoor events across the summer, following on from our successful tour to Devon at the end of May.

We have also had several new members join us so far this year. 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 a full day workshop that the band is holding in October, where a guest conductor will put us through our paces. 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 14<sup>th</sup> December**. More details will follow nearer the time, but we hope to see many of you there. Last year was a virtual sellout, so get your tickets early! 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: [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)



## Burghfield Village Produce Show

On 10<sup>th</sup> August, the Methodist Church in Burghfield Common hosted the second Produce Show, organised by the Committee, Lita Watts, Ruth Allen, Ellen Goodall and Elaine Kitson. The show was held in the Hall, the Produce marquee, (hired from Pink Penguins), the Plant stall and the Bric-a-Brac marquee which provided much needed space. Drinks and cake were served and the sunny afternoon was enjoyed by many visitors who admired the exhibits, bought raffle tickets and appreciated the social occasion.

Many thanks must be given to the volunteers who toiled tirelessly setting up the second marquee and gazebos, carrying tables and chairs both before the exhibitors arrived at 8:30am and after the show finished. Thanks also go to the ladies serving drinks, the judges and stewards as well as the people selling plants and Bric-a-Brac.

The exhibits were of excellent quality and competition fierce!! Class Winners:

<i>Vegetables</i>	Ian Goodall
<i>Fruit</i>	Graham Harris
<i>Flower Arranging</i>	Lita Watts
<i>Flowers</i>	Lita Watts
<i>Savoury Domestic</i>	Ruth Allen
<i>Sweet Domestic</i>	Elaine Kitson
<i>Children 9-15</i>	Maria Newsom
<i>Children 0-8</i>	Alice Henderson & Sebastian Green

We were very grateful for all our generous sponsors who enabled the show to go ahead. We would also like to thank Burghfield Parish Council for giving us a grant which enabled us to hire the Church Hall and a marquee.

The Chairman, Ian Macfarlane visited the show and presented the Council Cup for the Best Kept Allotment to Lita and Pat Watts. Our Chairman, Lita Watts also won the Overall Winner's Cup donated last year by Stephanie Awbery on behalf of her father Jim Devine. Runner-up was Andy Frost who received the plaque and the winner of the Vegetables Class, Ian Goodall received the cup donated by Burghfield Football Club.

Our next show will be on **9th August 2025** and we look forward to seeing even more exhibits and people enjoying the event.



## Mortimer Surgery Patient Participation Group

Mortimer Surgery Patient Participation Group held a public meeting on the topic 'Type 2 Diabetes, Health Promotion, Avoidance and Control' at St John's Hall and welcomed speakers from the Royal Berkshire Hospital and from Everyone Active. An interested and involved audience heard first from Dr El Saeed about the nature of diabetes, causes and treatments, and the stigma which some people experience when diagnosed. 'Keep Calm and Prepare for a Tsunami' was his concluding message.

Dr Theingi Aung followed up with a discussion of the condition of Diabetes, which is diabetes as a result of obesity, and how this can be avoided with attention to diet and exercise. The vicious circle of development of obesity resulting in reduced ability to process sugars and increased blood sugar levels (which can result in



serious harm) can be stopped and reversed with these measures. Her colleague, Jackie, a dietician, described how to achieve a balanced diet and assess a sensible portion size, plus ways of avoiding snacking or over eating at home or when eating out. The modern trend for using extra-large plates is one to resist!

Finally, Steph Irfan from Everyone Active described the many options for people in West Berkshire of any age to achieve higher physical activity levels. The Exercise Referral Scheme can be a route to increasing exercise frequency and effectiveness through enjoyable and sociable activities, bringing many health benefits including reduced risk of T2D development or exacerbation.

## Mortimer Craft Club

I am glad to say we are still going strong, making quilts for Project Linus which go to children in hospice, hospital, or in distress. Sometime even the fire brigade have need for them for families who have been burnt out. So the more we can make the better.



We are also making knitted blankets and bags for West Berks Community Hospital. The bags are used for patients leaving hospital rather than black plastic bags, also if a patient passes away it is nicer for the family to have a proper bag not plastic. The blankets are used in rehab wards and end of life, just to brighten the wards up. If anybody is interested in making squares for blankets but can't or doesn't want to come to our meetings, we would be delighted to accept them and put them together.

Why not drop in and see us 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays each month 1:30pm to 3:30pm at the Methodist Church Hall, West End Road. Any question please ring me Ann Stroud on 01189333419/07952110359 or e-mail [d.stroud2010@btinternet.com](mailto:d.stroud2010@btinternet.com)

## Mortimer Local History Group

We have had some busy and very well-attended meetings since the last MVP Newsletter, starting in May with a history of the fire service in Mortimer through the ages, which included information from documents, photographs and old newspapers, and some stories from past and present firefighters. In June, Mike Cooper, a local military historian, came to talk about Mortimer's pill box, and about our very own 'Dad's Army' and the place of both in the local and national picture. Attendees were able to look at documents relating to Mortimer during the war, and there were many extra questions for Mike.

We also had a stall at the 'Transport through the Ages' event on the Fairground, and lots of people came to see our displays, tell us about their historical connections with the village and add themselves to our email list.

In July, blessed with a fine evening, Carolyn led a walk around the village talking about the enclosures and how we can still follow their layout today. The decisions of the commissioners, made in 1802, still define the shape of housing on Mortimer Common today.

Our August meeting always takes the form of an afternoon tea, hosted once again by Bob and Carolyn at their wonderfully historic house, The Jackdaw, and once again we had a very fine afternoon with delicious contributions from members, and where we were able to thank Olwen and Mollie for their sterling work on the refreshments for meetings, and Bob and Carolyn, not only for their hospitality, but also for their continuing hard work running the group.



## Mortimer Schools PTFA

### A New Year for the Mortimer Schools PTFA

The last academic year flew by, and as we begin a new one, we welcome a fresh chapter for the Mortimer Schools Parents, Teachers & Friends Association (PTFA). At the close of last year, we bid a heartfelt farewell to our two long-standing Co-Chairs, Kelly Jenkins and Alison Harlen, who have done an outstanding job leading, organising, and fundraising for the PTFA over many years. Their dedication and hard work have left a lasting impact, and they will be greatly missed by both parents and teachers at the schools. However, we're excited to see who will step up and take on the leadership role moving forward.

A highlight of our annual calendar is the Summer Fair, held at Mortimer St. Mary's



in June. This event has truly flourished post-pandemic, becoming a fantastic day out for the entire family. The 2024 fair raised an incredible £7,000! We'd like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in making it such a success—

volunteers, bakers, organisers, children, and teaching staff alike. It was a wonderful day, and we couldn't have done it without the collective effort of our fantastic community.

We also want to take this opportunity to give a huge thank you to all the Bags2School volunteers. Their tireless work in organizing the collection of used clothing has raised significant funds for our infant and junior schools, as well as The Willink School. Thanks to their efforts, hundreds and thousands of pounds have been brought in over the years, directly benefiting our schools and children.

Finally, don't forget to save the date! Our annual Quiz Night will be held on **Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> November** at Mortimer St. John's Village Hall. It's always a fun-filled evening, complete with food and a well-stocked bar. Keep an eye on the MVP Facebook page for details on how to grab your tickets!

## Stratfield Mortimer Benefice

### St. John's and St. Mary's Churches Christmas Bazaar

We welcome all to join us on **Saturday November 23<sup>rd</sup> 10:00am to 1:00pm** in St. John's Church for a traditional Christmas Bazaar to raise essential funds to keep the churches open and functioning.

There will be an opportunity to buy homemade cakes, preserves, hand crafted items, have a go on the tombola or buy raffle tickets for the chance to win a cash prize or other prizes.

Start your Christmas celebration with a glass of mulled wine and a mince pie, or just come in for a cuppa and a chat!

Donations to the stalls are welcome – please leave at the back of the church on Sunday morning, or at 6pm on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## Burghfield and Mortimer Handybus

Over the summer months our two minibuses have continued to provide a local transport service for our elderly and less able members of the community. Many passengers took advantage of our regular supermarket shopping trips and our weekly trips to Newbury and Basingstoke shops. The highlight of the summer was a day trip to Hayling Island in beautiful sunny weather. Also, during the summer months we managed to fit in regular trips to various local garden centres for our passengers to enjoy a wander around and afternoon tea. These shopping and garden centre trips will continue through the autumn and winter, and we often have a few empty seats on these trips. If you are interested in joining one of these, or finding more about this local door-to-door transport service then please contact us, as below.

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. We need volunteers to both drive the buses (no special licence needed) and to assist passengers. 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)

## Greening Mortimer

In September 2024 members of Greening Mortimer attended the Greening Campaign Conference where Mortimer was recognised as being one of the leading community groups in the campaign.

If you are interested in getting involved in Greening Mortimer please read on to find out more about the various initiatives we are undertaking. If you are interested in joining the steering group please contact us (details below).



### **Energy - Would you like to learn how to operate a thermal imaging camera?**

As summer is coming to an end and we are moving into the colder months, Greening Mortimer are planning the next phase of **the thermal imaging initiative** across the village. We would like to hear from anyone who would be interested in being trained on how to use a thermal imaging camera and help us carry out more thermal imaging in the village. If you are interested please email us your details.

### **Would you like your home to be thermally imaged?**

Thermal imaging can help identify energy-saving opportunities in your home helping you keep warm and save money. If you would like to have your home thermally imaged over the winter months again please email us with your details.

**Space for Nature** - Since June 2024 there have been some developments. The Barn Owl Boxes have been put up and the first Mortimer Wildlife survey has taken place. In addition, a meeting was held on 16<sup>th</sup> October in the Horse and Groom where a number of exciting topics were discussed:

- The next Big Mortimer Wildlife Watch
- Wildlife Camera library
- Practical Conservation Group Space
- Programme of wildlife walks
- Linking with local groups with similar aims
- Gardening for Wildlife - pollinator patches
- Contributing to the Mortimer Parish Biodiversity Plan

If you would like to get more involved in this area, or are interested in any of the initiatives above, please email us on: [greeningmortimer@gmail.com](mailto:greeningmortimer@gmail.com).

## Mortimer Bellringers

### Why do I hear the bells at odd times?

What a good question. Apart from ringing the bells in Mortimer on Sundays, for weddings and for national events, what else goes on? Of course, we have to help our own band to develop, so you will hear the bells on Monday evenings in one of our three towers in Mortimer and Padworth.

We are part of a wider community of bellringers which means that we are supported by that network and we support them.

For example, we ran a special course, at St Marys, on the maintenance of bell installations 'The Secrets of a Steeplekeeper' which was attended by several delegates from other towers around our region. Bell installations are mostly quite old, (ours were installed in the 1890's), and are heavy so need a lot of maintenance to be safe and to sound their best. This course, run by our Steeplekeeper, was aimed at helping others to understand the finer points of good maintenance.

You may also hear the bells rung at what seem like odd times. There are occasional ringing training courses so we provide our bells for example, for courses run from Bradfield College in August.

We also receive visiting ringers to Mortimer and we in turn visit other towers to ring their bells. There is a thriving community keeping this traditional art alive.

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)



## Belle Canto Trio

Belle Canto Trio has had a very enjoyable summer with six performances of our 'Cabaret' programme, complete with jazz moves and colourful costume



accessories. Our public appearances at St. Mary's Church Beenham, St. Stephen's Church Baughurst and The Ship Inn Arts Centre were sell-out events, with tasty home-made treats for the audience provided by the venues. Shinfield St Mary's once again invited us to take part in their Saturday lunchtime concert series in August, performing to another packed church. Thank you to the organisers of all these public events for making us feel so welcome, and for the very warm appreciation of the audiences. We also had the chance to give two private performances to the Bluebell Dementia Café in Heckfield and Applewood Care Home in

Bramley. By special request we included group participation with some songs for the Bluebell group, and we were delighted when residents and staff at Applewood spontaneously joined in with us.

We now turn our attention to Christmas programme preparations, with bookings already to return to Beenham and Applewood Care Home. So if you'd like to get in the mood for Christmas with some jolly seasonal music, please put **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December at St Mary's Church, Beenham** in your diary for our public concert, where their regular Wednesday bell ringing practice is making way for an evening of singing. For more information on this, or how to book us for an event near you, please find our contact details at the back of this newsletter.

## Mortimer Baby and Toddler Group

Looking for a fun and enriching experience for your little one? Join your local toddler group, where the journey of discovery begins. We provide a warm and welcoming environment for babies and toddlers to socialise, play and learn alongside their peers. With a diverse range of

engaging activities, including messy play, creative arts, snacks, tidy up and song time. Parents and carers also have the opportunity to connect and share insights while their children make new friends at our stay and play sessions. Every week is different, with fun themes – space, nature, beach to name just a few, encouraging role play and language development!



**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.

## Bags2school

Bag2school dates for 2025 are as follows:

Village Collection	St. Mary's & St. John's Collection
Monday 10 March 2025	Tuesday 11 March 2025
Monday 9 June 2025	Tuesday 10 June 2025
Monday 13 October 2025	Tuesday 14 October 2025

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

**Volunteers**.....We have a wonderful team of volunteers who give a few hours of their time each year and we are tremendously grateful to them however, we are always looking out for more, particularly parents of the children who benefit from the money raised for the schools. The jobs are not onerous – a route delivering Bags2school bags through doors can be done with children - and the roadside collections of full bags takes about 45 mins and could be even shorter with more helpers. Please email Peta if you think you can help us;

[Petalclark@gmail.com](mailto:Petalclark@gmail.com)



## Mortimer Tennis Club



We are lucky to have access to two excellent courts on the Mortimer Fairground. These courts are maintained to a very high standard and the Parish Council are currently looking to replace the nets.

Earlier this year, the club 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 price for non-tennis club members is £5.50 per

hour! 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.

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.

## Mortimer Walking Group

We operate 'Wellbeing Walks' locally - a programme sponsored by West Berkshire Council, with all the walks 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 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, 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've been as they've spent all the time chatting!

## Mortimer West End Annual Show

Firstly, a very big thank you to all those that trusted and braved the UK weather to exhibit at, and attend, our annual Produce show on the August Bank holiday weekend.

The weather was truly awful in the morning, but it did brighten up for the afternoon show and we managed to offer our usual fare of tea and homemade cakes both in the marquee and in the garden.

Thank you to all the exhibitors – without you we don't have a show and wouldn't be able to keep this long running traditional show active. It was still a remarkably good turn out this year, especially with the vegetables, given the seemingly poor growing season that we had. Other classes remained strong, especially domestic and handicrafts, but photography still were our most popular individual classes across the show.

Also, thank you to the show committee for the planning effort throughout the year and to the helpers on the actual day, your time and effort is very much appreciated.

Please look out for us in 2025 – **Saturday 23rd August**, eyes open for the Schedule available in late Spring and see what you can make, grow and exhibit, or otherwise contribute to the show. If you wish to get more involved, you'll find our contact details at the back of this Newsletter.



## 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			<a href="mailto:gsl@1stbands.org">gsl@1stbands.org</a>
1st Mortimer Brownies	Rachel Ryan	933 3153	<a href="mailto:firstmortimerbrownies@hotmail.co.uk">firstmortimerbrownies@hotmail.co.uk</a>
1st Mortimer Guides	Toni Smith	07886 524611	<a href="mailto:mortimerguides@hotmail.com">mortimerguides@hotmail.com</a>
1st Mortimer Scouts	Neil Johnson	933 2147	<a href="mailto:neiljohnson@btinternet.com">neiljohnson@btinternet.com</a>

Affiliate	Contact	Telephone	Email
1st Ufton Nerve Scout Group	Cathryn Knight	07793 196 863	cathryn@uftonscouts.com
Age Concern	Tina Tomlinson	07852 557733	tubbs66.tb@googlemail.com
Alfred Palmer Memorial Field Trust	John Hannawin		trustees@alfredpalmermemorialfield.org.uk
B&M Volunteer Bureau	Erle Minhinick	07879 221702	bureauvolunteer@gmail.com;
Bags2School	Peta Clark		petalclark@gmail.com
Belle Canto Trio	Heather Sims	970 0001	info@bellecanto.uk
Burghfield & Mortimer 1st Responders	Tom Maynard		thomas.maynard@sca-charity.org.uk
Burghfield & Mortimer Handybus	Don Harwood	983 6611	thehandybus@gmail.com
Burghfield Allotment Club	Ruth Allen	07776 232221	r.allen4@btinternet.com
Burghfield and Mortimer Photo Club	Sue Totham		burghfieldccsec@gmail.com
Burghfield Bowls Club	Gary Belcher	07952 560781	garybmob@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	9332577 0774 0841412	lynn@i-next.co.uk
Greening Mortimer	facebook.com/greeningmortimer	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

<b>Affiliate</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Email</b>
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		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	Pippa Keeling		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 Walking Group	Graham Bridgman	07770 918910	gb@atpps.com
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 297934	MWECCCchairman@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
The Hurst Singers	Mari Fleming	933 2805 07882 40433	mariatseasons@aol.com
The Oaks Childcare Clubs CIC	Prubie Sahota	933 2960	office@theoakschildcare.co.uk
Together in Mission	Emma Shumsky	07748 686615.	info@togetherinmission.org.uk
Willink PTA	Garry Strange		garry.strange1973@gmail.com

### 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>

October	November
<b>MVP Newsletter</b> <b>18/19/25/26</b> - Mortimer Dramatic Society production <b>19</b> – Friends of Mortimer Library (FOML) Poetry Appreciation taster session <b>26</b> – MVP Scarecrow trail starts	<b>3</b> – MVP Scarecrow trail ends <b>15</b> – Mortimer Schools PTFA Quiz Night <b>18</b> – FOML Talk <b>23</b> – FOML Creative Writing taster session <b>23</b> – St John's & St. Mary's Christmas Bazaar <b>30</b> – Save the Children (StC) Jumble sale
December	January
<b>4</b> – Belle Canto Trio Christmas concert <b>14</b> – South Berks Concert Band Christmas concert <b>21</b> – MVP Panto: Cinderella	
February	March
<b>MVP Newsletter</b>	<b>10/11</b> - Bags2School collection <b>29</b> - StC Jumble Sale

*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>Rachel James</b>	rachel_james34@yahoo.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Ali Richardson</b>	alison.richardson1964@gmail.com
<b>Affiliates Secretary</b>	<b>Gael Nicholls</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)*

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