

February 2025 NEWSLETTER



Mortimer Village Partnership
Enriching Village Life

Thoughts Turn to Spring and Summer

After what seems like endless rain, we can finally look forward to the brighter, sunnier days of spring. The daffodils, already taking advantage of milder temperatures and the extra rain, are just about ready to bloom, a welcome sign that warmer days are on the way.

Looking back on last year, the Scarecrow Trail was once again a resounding success, with 23 new members of our community coming to life from the world of Myths & Legends. It was incredibly gratifying for both the organisers and the talented Scarecrow Makers to see the usual crowds wandering the village, delighting in each creative scarecrow.

We also welcomed a new pantomime company, Shooting Stars, who entertained a sell-out audience with their fantastic rendition of **Cinderella**. As always, the show charmed both children and adults alike.

For 2025, we already have something exciting in the works for the Scarecrow Trail and a fresh twist on our annual pantomime... but more details will follow later in the year!

Looking ahead, our next big event is the **Annual Spring Clean**, on **22nd March**. We'll be gathering on the Fairground opposite the Horse and Groom between **12:30 and 15:30** to get the village "beach ready" for summer. As always, we hope for a great turnout, and litter-picking kits will be provided.

For those following the MVP Facebook page, you've already seen some exciting updates about this year's **Fun Day**, which will be held on **Saturday, 5th July**. In the coming weeks, we'll share more details, and as always, we'll be calling for volunteers to help us make the day a success!

Doug Overett
MVP Chair



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

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

MVP Fun Day – 5th July

As mentioned in our last newsletter, we're thrilled to announce that the MVP Fun Day is back and will take place on **Saturday, 5th July 2025!**

For those new to the village, this event has been a beloved tradition for over a decade. The goal of the Fun Day is to provide a low-cost, free-to-enter celebration that everyone in the community can enjoy.

Expect exciting arena acts alongside classic summer fete activities—from coconut shies to welly-wanging! Local clubs and societies will be running these activities, giving them a chance to fundraise while connecting with the wider community. And, of course, no Fun Day would be complete without a Beer Tent, offering local beers and a selection of refreshing summer drinks.

We'll soon be calling for volunteers to help with everything from manning the tea tent to selling raffle tickets. Just an hour or two of your time will make a big difference, so we encourage everyone to get involved.

Mark your calendars for 5th July, stay tuned for more details as we get closer to the event and see how you can get involved here:

<https://www.mortimervillage.org.uk/Fun-Day/News?topic=Fun%20Day>

Visiting Theatre

In association with Applause, we are delighted to be bringing **Victor and Albert** to Mortimer.

Come and join us at St. John's Hall for an evening of riotous comedy, audience interaction, original songs, games, mayhem and a sprinkling of magic.

Victor and Albert is a good old-fashioned feel-good, two-man variety show brought kicking and screaming into the 21st Century.

Saturday 12th April at 7:30 pm

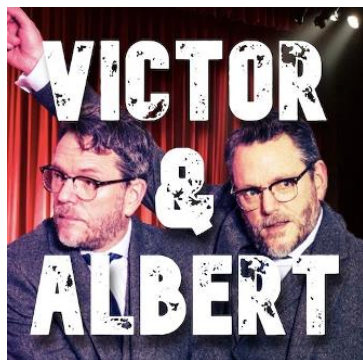
Tickets £14.50 (plus 50p booking fee)

Recommended age: 14+

Tickets available now: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/booking/t-pqelvxn>

'An excellent evening of musical comedy. It was great to hear everyone in the Village Hall laughing and having a great evening.' 'We all agreed we hadn't laughed so much in years!'

Get a sneak preview here: <https://www.timandroly.com/showreel>.





This follows from the recent success of welcoming the Shooting Star Entertainments theatre company to the village for our annual Pantomime. They brought their lively take on Cinderella which was much enjoyed by young and old alike. Thanks to everyone who made this show a sell out!

MVP Annual General Meeting

The MVP AGM will take place on **11th March**, just before our monthly meeting. We're excited to share that in recent months, a number of new faces have joined our team. This not only helps us share the workload, but also brings fresh perspectives to some of our established activities and exciting new ideas for future events. If you're interested in attending the AGM as a visitor, or if you'd like to join the MVP team, please email me at Chair@mortimervillage.org.uk.

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 to meet old friends and make new ones. At present the Handybus service to Lunch Club is full, so guests would need to get to Lunch Club under their own steam. If you are interested in attending, then please call Rebecca on 07515775464 and I can tell you more.

To be able to run this Lunch Club requires dedication from a lovely group of volunteers who set up tables, serve food and clear up afterwards. We are always looking for more helpers. If you think you might be interested in helping please get in touch with Rebecca (bbarkerdg11@gmail.com).

We are also looking for that special person(s) that would be happy to manage the running of lunch club with Rebecca and Louise. That person would need to be comfortable with a computer and also on Whatsapp. The kind of roles they would share with Rebecca and Louise would be to organise volunteer rotas, sort logistics of who will be attending, manage contact lists, source funding streams, liaise with Handybus and Caterers and generally be very comfortable making friends with our elderly guests and assist them wherever possible. If you would like to make a big difference for our Lunch Club please get in touch with Rebecca bbbarkerdg11@gmail.com - we would love to hear from you.

Mortimer & Burghfield Toy Library

2025 - How exciting, the Toy Library has moved into our very first session of the New Year by putting into place our digital service. We have finally moved from paper and pen records to using laptops, streamlining operations by facilitating secure management of items, members and loans. It has been a lengthy process as we are staffed by volunteers, who all have busy lives outside of Toy Library, but definitely very rewarding.



Toy Library still meet on the fourth Saturday of each month at Mortimer Methodist Church Hall 9:30am - 11am and we see new members join monthly.

Of course, when families move out of the area we are saddened to lose touch with children we have often watched develop from newborn and we have the never-ending cycle of membership recruitment.

It is a real pleasure for the volunteers to watch children choose toys, very often large items that their parent/carers had not quite anticipated. Quoting a member from Saturday session "I might need to buy a larger car" as the little one excitedly gathered more toys. A member can borrow 15 toys per month which we consider good value for the £20 annual membership fee.

Our move to Lend Engine, an online platform, is still in its infancy but each session in 2025 will see us streamline our operation and members will eventually be able to browse and reserve toys online.

Mortimer Methodist Church

As part of its Eco Gold award, awarded in July 2023, the Church has a long/short grass policy and recognises the importance of grass seed research for the future of climate change.

Across the country, improved grasslands have delivered more grass for livestock but less for nature. Flower-rich hay meadows have been ploughed up and re-sown with fast growing ryegrasses. Barely 2% of traditional semi-natural hay meadows, whose wildflowers support a vast array of insect and bird life, survive. There has to be a more balanced strategy - nature needs diverse grasses that have deeper roots to draw down water into soil.

Scientists continue to seek smarter ways to use grass - high vigour seed means fast germination with growth in extreme cold conditions as well as 60% more

tolerance in high temperatures. Some grass species have capacity to store and sequester carbon within their leaves, roots and soil profile.

Grasslands that we use for leisure in towns and for food in the countryside will change in an era of rapid global heating. Farmers are investigating alternatives to rye grass monocultures as they recognise the need for the long-term sustainable production of grass.

Mortimer West End Village Hall

Just to let you know that our ever popular Family Treasure Trail and Woodland Walk is scheduled for **Sunday 20th July**. We are hoping that this year it won't clash with tennis and football finals!

As always, don't forget that the hall is available for hire at very reasonable rates. The large hall can be hired for £10 an hour on weekdays and £12 an hour on evenings and weekends. £6 per hour secures you the small hall. Our layout 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.

More information is available at

www.facebook.com/mwevillagehall mwevhall@gmail.com or 0118-970-0001



Burghfield & Mortimer Volunteer Bureau

- a service to the local community that works

This group of local residents have one aim – to transport other residents of these and surrounding parishes, to and from their appointments at whichever hospital, doctors, surgery, dentist etc. when they are unable to do so themselves.

Becoming a well-known part of local community, the Bureau is now serving an increasing number of clients – up 4% in the last 3 months - to a total of 341. Each day the requests for transport have also increased to an average of 138 per month, the busiest day in the last 3 months having 12 drives. We also have half a dozen regular drives each week: two people to The Ambrose Allen Day Centre and four to the Headway Thames Valley Brain Injury Charity in Henley. Otherwise, in the last quarter clients have requested us to take them to local hospitals: Royal Berks and West Berks Community and other hospitals as far away as Basingstoke, Windsor, Frimley Park and Oxford.



Celebrating 50 years' service, this not-for-profit organisation relies on contributions from clients for each journey and grants from West Berkshire District, Mortimer and Burghfield Parish Councils and other groups like the Burghfield Residents Association.

It also relies on local volunteer drivers (who can claim 50p per mile) and other volunteers who take calls and perform admin work and bookkeeping.

So, if you, or anybody you know locally need transport to medical appointments or are willing to help the Bureau drive them, then please phone:

0118 983 1814 (9:30 - 11:30am weekdays with answerphone out of hours), or email bureauorganiser@gmail.com, and check our website: burghfieldandmortimervolunteerbureau.org. THANK YOU.

Burghfield and Mortimer Photographic Club

We're well into our stride at club with discussions and workshops around taking photographs and how to process them to their best advantage. Our numbers are growing so the club is becoming more viable but there is always room for more members. If you have an interest in photography, why not come along and see what we do. We're a friendly, open group of like-minded enthusiasts who enjoy talking about photography and showing our images.

We've recently put up another set of prints in the Mortimer Community Centre for everyone to see, please take the time to look if you are visiting the hall.

Coming up we have talks on black & white photography, mobile phone photography, and other talks by members together with showcases and photographic challenges.

Why not come along and have some fun, we meet every other Thursday evening in St Oswald's Church Hall at 7:30pm. See our website for more details: bmphotoclub.uk or email burghfieldccsec@gmail.com



Mortimer Dramatic Society

The Return of Detective Chief Inspector Grim to Mortimer!



Detective Chief Inspector Grim returns to solve another mystery in March. Mortimer Dramatic Society is delighted to be putting on a dinner theatre experience 'Always Listen to Your Nose' for you all to enjoy and put your own detective heads on to work out 'whodunnit'.

This original play is written by our very own talented member Alys Ware, and will run on **March 7th, 8th, 14th and 15th**.

Tickets always sell quickly so please book your seats via the website www.mortimer-dramatic.org

The Hurst Singers

Our four-part choir meets every Thursday evening in St. John's Hall, Mortimer. We are currently back to learning new pieces after our successful Christmas performances in Mortimer, Burghfield and Tadley, and we are now working towards our summer concerts in July.

We are a very friendly bunch, who enjoy regularly getting together and singing as a group, just as much as the performances. Last year we asked our members what they get out of being a member, and there were so many more reasons than you might think – which just goes to prove the growing scientific evidence that choral singing makes people healthier and happier!

We always welcome enquiries from potential new members, especially male voices, and if you are not an experienced singer, we offer lots of support for those who need it.

Or you might just want to be a Friend of the Hurst Singers, and receive notifications of upcoming events. Get in touch if you are interested thehurstsingers@googlemail.com and we can send you more details. Find out more at <http://thehurstsingers.org/>



Mortimer Local History Group

Our group goes from strength to strength, with very good attendance and interest at our monthly meetings (on the third Tuesday of the month at the Methodist Church Hall). Our September meeting was 'back to school' as we had a second hands-on meeting working through the archives, and there was an emotional moment where a member found a letter from decades ago relating directly to her family! October's meeting was called 'Village Entertainment', and after some information about events from 1750-1950, the floor was opened to members to recall their experiences of clubs and other activities in the village. November saw Dr Stephen Burt, Mortimer's very own expert meteorologist, talk about a hundred years of weather in Reading and Mortimer, amply illustrated with photos, historical documents and graphs, and there were many questions raised, and indeed answered, in an amusing and informative way. Our final meeting of the year invited members, many of whom have joined the group over the past year or so, to talk about their personal histories...and what an interesting and varied bunch we are, all brought together by a common interest in local history! There is definitely scope for another similar meeting in the future, to find out about a few more of our members, and we are looking forward to another year of exploring and learning about the history of our wonderful village and other points of interest in the local area.



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 Horse & Groom, the Baobab or the Bistro for a coffee (or whatever suits!) At Christmas we organised two lunches in the H&G, plus mulled wine and mince pies in the Community Centre.



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 Surgery Patient Participation Group

The PPG held its pre-Christmas meeting on 18th December during which presentations were made to Shirley Cullup who was standing down as Chair after many years of successfully leading the group's support of the Surgery and its patients. Apart from the Covid years this has included the holding of public meetings with speakers to present health-related topics which have been well attended.

The newly elected Chair, John Bagshaw, thanked everyone for their vote of confidence and proposed discussion of the future activities at the next meeting, to be held on **19th March**.



If you have ideas for how the PPG can help improve patient experience and communication with the surgery please contact me directly on johnalanbagshaw@gmail.com

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.

Mortimer Community Centre

It may come as a surprise to many of you that the community centre on The Fairground is entirely run by a group of volunteers, and has been from the day that grants were first raised to build it almost 20 years ago. The management committee has just been infused with new blood and now consists of 6 enthusiastic locals, all working together to deliver a cost-efficient facility for the community.

Over the last few years there have been a number of bumps in the road, COVID and a serious leak within the heating system pipes in the ceiling of the building, to name just a couple. Throughout this the hall has continued to offer a space for local groups to meet and be active, even during COVID, when the ballet school used the hall to transmit video lessons to their pupils stuck at home!

The hall is now even busier than ever, with dance classes, Little Oaks, martial arts, Tai Chi, yoga, cricket, the Lunch Club and the WI, all meeting there. A recent audit of the hall and its activities by Connecting Communities in Berkshire (CCB) praised the facility for the wide range of ages and different activities that regularly used the hall. That said, there are a few slots remaining available, but most evenings will see something happening there. A lot of our users do take the school holidays off, so if you are looking for a venue to cater for any activity out of school term, we might just have the place for you.

The Hall has just been repainted throughout with other improvements underway, including new tables, to replace the old ones which have lasted more than 15 years. The hall will shortly have a website with an on-line booking system, so hopefully we can fill those few gaps that do exist and continue to support local groups and activities.

South Berks Concert Band



2024 was a great year for the band, with a series of popular and well-received performances – both indoors and outside. Our Christmas Concert in Burghfield on 14th December saw the largest audience for a number of years, with lots of positive feedback.

Our next event is our Spring Concert in The Link at Tadley Community Centre on 22nd March. We will have some fantastic music to share with you, including music from Andrew Lloyd Webber's Cats, famous Maori hymn Hine e Hine and several new pieces being performed by the band for the very first time. More information is added regularly on our website & social media pages. We hope to see many of 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, Alton, and Shaw-cum-Donnington near Newbury.

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

Friends of Mortimer Library

The Friends of Mortimer Library (FoML) were delighted to welcome David Evered as their speaker in November. He gave a fascinating talk on his life, his career and his writing. In February we were joined by local artist and ornithologist Peter Driver, who talked about his book *A Walk for Stanley*. The beautiful book, which brings together Peter's sketches, woodcut prints, photographs, poetry and prose, recounts his experience of a walk from the Stanley Spencer Gallery in Cookham to the Sandham Memorial Chapel, Burghclere, where Spencer's Great War memorial paintings are displayed.

On the 28th April we look forward to hearing from Lord Arbuthnot who will talk on the Post Office scandal. Please watch out for further details of the event on the village noticeboards, our Facebook page and our website at:

<https://mortimerlibraryfriends.org/index.html>

Our Saturday morning taster sessions continue with Poetry Appreciation on the **22nd March**. In addition, if you are interested in, just starting, or are stuck on your family tree then come along to the ancestry sessions held in the Library on the second Friday of the month, 1-3pm, when volunteers will be available to help you. Follow us on Facebook for regular updates.

Do visit the Library, it's use it or lose it, and remember, small is beautiful. Apart from a wide range of books, there are activities for all ages.

Should you wish to contact the FoML Committee about any of our events or other queries then please email info@mortimerlibraryfriends.org

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Mortimer & West End Cricket Club

We are delighted to announce the merger of Mortimer West End Cricket Club (MWECC) and Mortimer Cricket Club (MCC) to form Mortimer & West End Cricket Club (M&WECC).

We believe that this decision is in the best interest of a sustainable future for cricket in the villages and we hope we gain the support of the community to this end. The merger will see both heritage clubs' home grounds being used, and we will have the distinction of being one club with two home grounds in separate counties.

Andrew Williams, former Chairman of MWECC, described this decision as intended to create a strong, sustainable and competitive cricket club. He added "We will compete with three Saturday league teams, in the Thames Valley League (TVL), The 1st XI in Division 5, 2nd XI in Division 8 and 3rd XI, which will be a development team, in Division 9. Our Sunday friendly side will continue with a full fixture list.

We will provide members the opportunity to play cricket at a suitable level to match their needs and aim to provide a clear pathway for junior members to progress into adult cricket."

Tony Alder, former Chairman of MCC, noted that "it may have taken us 135 years to see the sense in joining together but I think now as a combined, united, club the coming years look more secure for the future of village cricket in Mortimer and West End."

A new Committee was elected on 19th January and has met to agree the next steps to ensure the club is ready for the 2025 season, when we will welcome both current and new members and hope to prosper in the TVL.

We will continue to provide coaching to children from the age of 5-15 and are engaging with local secondary schools to help provide indoor winter cricket opportunities.

Our own indoor nets will begin in February, at Theale Green School and anyone interested in coming along should contact any member of the committee via our new website: <https://mandwecc.play-cricket.com/Aboutus>

We are very keen to welcome new adult members who will pay only £65 to join the club for the 2025 season, again please get in touch via the website.

We have plenty of work to do but believe that very exciting times lie ahead for cricket in Mortimer and West End!

Mortimer Bellringers

Who are the Mortimer Bellringers?

The name does not reveal the true variety of the Mortimer Bellringers. We are based in Mortimer and ring the three bell towers of the Benefice of Stratfield Mortimer: St. John's and St. Mary's in Mortimer and St. John the Baptist in Padworth. (There are no bells in St Saviour in Mortimer West End.)

But we are a much more widely based group. The ringers come from all directions. A significant number are Burghfield Common based and others live in Padworth, Reading, Pamber, and Baughurst. We are also occasionally joined by friends from Toronto and Seattle. Without the ringers from outside Mortimer we would not be able to ring on Sunday mornings, for weddings and on the special occasions.

So if you live in the area and can ring, or you are new to the whole idea and fancy learning to ring, please do drop an email to mortimerbellringers@gmail.com and we'll be in touch.



1st Burghfield and Sulhamstead Scout Group

2024 was a really successful and busy year for our scout group. We opened our first Squirrel Drey (ages 4-6) and continue to provide weekly scouting to over 280 young people in the area.

We offered over 800 nights away camping to our young people, including a Group Camp near Oxford for 150 young people and various other camps and sleepovers for all sections.

The summer saw a joint camp between us and a visiting group from Denmark – 3rd Kolding Scouts. They had a busy week enjoying activities on site, coasteering, visiting Monkey World, and a day visiting the birthplace of Scouting - Brownsea Island. The older Explorers also completed an overnight hike, staying under a traditional Danish shelter at a scout hut in Bridport overnight before returning back to camp.

All sections had a varied programme with archery, shooting, climbing, and sailing being some of the most popular adventurous activities. Many of our groups visited either the Mortimer or Theale fire station or RAF Odiham this year and could often be seen out on hikes, litter picking, or exploring the woods in the local area.

Scouting is about building skills for life, and we hope that those who join us will gain useful skills, build their confidence, and understand the importance of community.

If you are interested in joining us as a leader or signing up a young person, please get in touch at glv@1stbands.org. We currently have spaces for Beavers (aged 6-8) and a waiting list for all other sections.

Greening Mortimer



Greening Mortimer have been busy this Winter continuing to offer residents in the village the chance to have thermal images of their home, to find out where there is heat loss. Our volunteers send the images, both indoor and outside, with some information about possible issues and suggestions for how to address them, seeking expert advice as appropriate of course. Please contact greeningmortimer@gmail.com if you would like to arrange thermal imaging of your home. Our Space for Nature

team has been active with the West Berkshire Barn Owl group and I'm delighted to report that in Autumn 2024 two of our three new barn owl boxes had owls roosting in them. This bodes well for possible nests and owl chicks in the Spring - we'll keep you posted!

Belle Canto Trio

As always, Belle Canto Trio had a busy schedule in December, with five Christmas concerts. We invested in some new white furry jackets for singing in cold churches, which we divested ourselves of when we were singing in warm retirement homes!

Here are Helen, Heather and Gabi with our pianist, Oliver, and two care home residents:



We are now looking forward to celebrating the 80th anniversary of VE Day at Speen Church on 26th April and at Burghfield Village Hall on 9th May where we will be raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Full details will be available soon at www.facebook.com/BelleCantoTrio

We are also currently celebrating our own anniversary. Our very first concert was a tea-time concert on Valentine's Day 2015 at Beech Hill Village Hall, where our audience enjoyed our home-made cakes as well as our performance of "Love Songs Just For You".

Save the Children Kennet Branch

Thank you to everyone who supported our check-out jumble sales in 2024. We have jumble sale dates for 2025 for your diary, these are as follows; **Saturday 29th March, Saturday 31st May, Saturday 30th August and Saturday 29th November.** The sales are held at Mortimer Methodist Hall, West End Road, Stratfield Mortimer, RG7 3ST and start at 10:30am. The concept is simple, all jumble items are 40p or 3 for £1. There is a 50p entry fee. If you like a bargain, come along. We 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).

Save the Date – Sunday 22nd June. 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 at our Midsummer Music concert with Clive Fortune Big Band.

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 Schools PTFA

Mortimer Schools PTFA had a brilliantly busy festive period, raising money at Wreath Making, Quiz Night, and the Christmas Fair, with a surprise visit from Father Christmas to the delight of the children!

This fundraising contributed to new musical instruments, water bottle stations, and coaches to London theatres in November where the very excited children watched The Lion King or Matilda.

The PTFA would like to extend a big thank you to Bag2School coordinators Rebecca Barker, Jo Adey, Peta Clarke and all of their volunteers who raised £968 for The Mortimer Federation and The Willink in October 2024 and continue to do so! This is incredible fundraising for the federation and also supports our eco-schools ethos by saving tonnes of clothes from going straight to landfill.

The students of Mortimer St. John's said goodbye to January with a magical Storytime and Hot Chocolate evening, returning to their classrooms in pyjamas to enjoy books with their teachers. Thank you to the teachers and PTFA volunteers that make these events possible and create priceless memories for the students.

Planning for our spring and summer events is underway, and we are looking forward to World Book Day, Mortimer's Got Talent, Easter Bake Off, and a new for 2025, School Colour Run!

Lastly, we are happy to announce that our ever-popular annual Summer Fair will be held on **Saturday 14th June** at Mortimer St. Mary's School. We welcome all Parents, Teachers, and Friends of our schools to get involved, from volunteering at events, to match fundraising from your company. Contact PTFA chairperson Helen at Mortimer St Mary's Office officessm@mortimerschools.org

Mortimer 2012 WI

What do Journalism, Beading, Farming and Church Bells have in common? They are all talks the members of Mortimer 2012 WI have enjoyed over the last few months, not forgetting an evening making Christmas cards and our thoroughly enjoyable Christmas Party in December so you can see that life is never dull in the WI. Add to that our monthly walks, lunches, book group and the Walking Netball on the MUGA on Wednesdays, there is always something happening.

We will once again be decorating the village with Bee posters and bunting during May to coincide with World Bee Day on 20th May. If you would like to become involved you will be most welcome.

If this sounds like something you would enjoy do come along and give us a try, you will be made very welcome. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Community Centre, Mortimer.

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 have just replaced the nets.

Last 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 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 or call Simon on 07768 743197.



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	Email
1st Burghfield & Sulhamstead Scouts & TAO Exp.unit	gsl@1stbands.org	gsl@1stbands.org
1st Mortimer Brownies	Rachel Ryan	firstmortimerbrownies@hotmail.co.uk
1st Mortimer Guides	Toni Smith	mortimerguides@hotmail.com
1st Mortimer Scouts	Neil Johnson	neiljohnson@btinternet.com
1st Ufton Nerve Scout Group	Cathryn Knight	cathryn@uftonscouts.com
Age Concern	Tina Tomlinson	tubbs66.tb@googlemail.com
Alfred Palmer Memorial Field Trust	John Hannawin	trustees@alfredpalmermemorialfield.org.uk

Affiliate	Contact	Email
B&M Volunteer Bureau	Erle Minhinnick	bureauvolunteer@gmail.com; erleminhinnick@gmail.com
Bags2School	Peta Clark	petalclark@gmail.com
Belle Canto Trio	Heather Sims	info@bellecanto.uk
Burghfield & Mortimer 1st Responders	Tom Maynard	thomas.maynard@sca-charity.org.uk
Burghfield & Mortimer Handybus	Don Harwood	thehandybus@gmail.com
Burghfield Allotment Club	Ruth Allen	r.allen4@btinternet.com
Burghfield and Mortimer Photo Club	Sue Totham	burghfieldccsec@gmail.com
Burghfield Bowls Club	Gary Belcher	garybmob@gmail.com
Burghfield Gardening Club	Brian Uttley	brianuttley@yahoo.co.uk
Burghfield Santas	Gareth Green	gareth.green@gmail.com
Friends of Mortimer Library	Lynn Hannawin	lynn@hannawin.com
Greening Mortimer		greeningmortimer@gmail.com
Incredible Edible Mortimer	Marie Worthington	incredibleediblemortimer@gmail.com
Made in Mortimer	Rebecca Hedges	made.in.mortimer@gmail.com
Mortimer & Burghfield Toy Library	Dorothy Harfleet	dorothy.harfleet@sky.com
Mortimer (St. John's) Village Hall	Brian Thatcher	brianthatcher@btinternet.com
Mortimer 2012 WI	Patricia Boud	mortimer2012wi@berkshirewi.co.uk
Mortimer Baby & Toddler Group	Amanda Lowe	amanda.lowe44@yahoo.co.uk
Mortimer Bell Ringers	Nick Munson & Elaine Perkins	mortimerbellringers@gmail.com
Mortimer Craft Club	Ann Stroud	d.stroud2010@btinternet.com
Mortimer Cricket Club/ Mortimer WE Cricket Club	Adrian Smith	adrsmith@gmail.com
Mortimer Dramatic Society	Rob Wilderspin	rob@wilderspin.org

Affiliate	Contact	Email
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Mortimer Local History Group	Deirdre Burrell	deirdreburrell15@gmail.com
Mortimer Methodist Church	Daphne Cooney	daphnecooney@gmail.com
Mortimer Music Live CIC	Ryan Saunders	info@mortimermusiclive.co.uk
Mortimer Pre School Parents Committee	Mari Fleming	chair@mortimerpreschool.org.uk
Mortimer Schools PTFA	Gemma Matthews	mortimerschoolsptfa@gmail.com
Mortimer Surgery Patients Participation Group	John Bagshaw	johnalbagshaw@btinternet.com
Mortimer Tennis Club	Jean Thomas	info@mortimertennisclub.co.uk
Mortimer Walking Group	Graham Bridgman	gb@atpps.com
Mortimer West End & District Annual Show	Nick Munson	ngmunson@yahoo.com
Mortimer West End Village Hall	Heather Sims	mwevhall@gmail.com
Royal British Legion	Tina Tomlinson	tubbs66.tb@googlemail.com
Save the Children - Kennet Branch B25	Clare Downey	jclaredowney@gmail.com
South Berks Concert Band	Louise Truslove	southberksconcertband@yahoo.com
Stratfield Mortimer Benefice	Sara Spratt	admin@mortimerbenefice.co.uk
Stratfield Mortimer Fairground Charity	Danusia Morsley	danusia@morsley.me.uk
The Hurst Singers	Mari Fleming	thehurstsingers@gmail.com
The Oaks Childcare Clubs CIC	Prubie Sahota	office@theoakschildcare.co.uk
Together in Mission	Emma Shumsky	info@togetherinmission.org.uk

More information on our Affiliated groups can be found on the MVP Website:

<https://www.mortimervillage.org.uk/Affiliate-Support>

MVP Contact Details

Chairman	Doug Overett	chair@mortimervillage.org.uk 07738 470870
Vice Chairman	Julia Meadows	juliameadows@outlook.com
Secretary	Rachel James	rachel_james34@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Ali Richardson	alison.richardson1964@gmail.com
Affiliates Secretary	Gael Nicholls	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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