

Annual Parish Meeting 28/4 7:30pm

Mortimer Village Partnership

Thank you to the Parish Council for giving me this opportunity to have a quick shout out for the MVP

While I hope most of you are already familiar with the Mortimer Village Partnership and our role in the village over the past 15 years—reflected in our strapline, "*Enriching Village Life*"—I'd like to take a moment to update you on a few things planned for this year.

Firstly, Lunch Club

The MVP Lunch Club, has been providing hot meals and social interaction for up to 40 of the senior members of our community since the inception of the MVP. In the past two to three years, as a response to the cost of living crisis, the offering was upgraded from soup and sandwiches to a two-course hot meal during the winter months.

Following recent discussions with our guests, we are delighted to announce that the two-course meal will now be extended through the summer months as well. For many, this may be the only hot meal they have each week.

In other news....we hope some of you were able to enjoy our recent visiting **professional theatre** production, the musical comedy act *Victor & Albert*. Our aim is to bring new and diverse high-quality theatre to the village, so stay tuned for our next offering!

Next, Scarecrow Trail

You may have already seen some early publicity about this year's Scarecrow Trail. For those who haven't, the theme for 2025 is "**Mortimer Goes Potty.**"

In a break from tradition, we're going a little "off piste." Rather than specifying characters to create, this year the only rule is that your scarecrow must be made from **flower pots**—what it represents is entirely up to you!

We're very aware that this is the time of year when many are busy in their gardens and visiting garden centres, so our message is: "**Hold onto your pots!**"

We're hoping to set up a "**Pot Swap**" in a month or two, where people can drop off unwanted pots and our brilliant scarecrow makers can pick up what they need. All pots can, of course, be recycled after the event.

At the moment, we're looking for a central location or volunteer to host the "Pot Swap crate." If you have suggestions or would like to help, please get in touch!

n September we have a new event, a **Call my Bluff Wine Tasting**, which will be a lot of fun and laughs with Wine included....what's not to like!

Lastly, MVP Fun Day

Yes, it's back! After a break of six or seven years—during which we supported, collaborated with, or ran many of Mortimer's other fantastic fairground events—we're thrilled to return to the original spirit of the **Mortimer Fun Day**.

The **Fun Day has never been a fundraiser**—and it still isn't. It's not about getting our visitors to part with their money. Instead, it's all about offering a **free-to-enter, low-cost family day out**, with a strong focus on **children's activities** and community enjoyment.

We're excited to announce a **high-octane headline arena act**, kindly supported by the Parish Council, along with a **visit from some dinosaurs, a dog show, a fancy-dress parade**, and of course **market stalls, food, beer, and teas** and much more.

The day will conclude with a **ticketed ABBA tribute act** in the main marquee, brought to you by our friends at **Mortimer Music Live**.

Of course, events like this don't happen without an incredible team. While a core group of around a dozen volunteers are already working hard behind the scenes, we'll need more help to make the weekend run smoothly. So, when the call goes out, please consider giving even just an hour or two of your time. It's your support that helps keep Mortimer home to the **biggest and best summer events around!**

As a final take away, the MVP meet on the evening of 2nd Tuesday of the month and we welcome new people to join us. Please email or call me for details

Thank you

Doug Overett

Chair – Mortimer Village Partnership