

June 2025 NEWSLETTER



Mortimer Village Partnership
Enriching Village Life

Mortimer Fun Day is Just Around the Corner!...On the Fairground, to be precise!

After a long break while the village enjoyed other events, **5th July 2025** is shaping up to be a fantastic day.

We've gone back to the original format, focusing on our primary aim: **providing an inexpensive day out for everyone in the community**. Entry is **completely free**, and there's a full line-up of things to see and do, including:



The high-octane headline arena act **Pedal Power vs Parkour, Circus acts** with a chance to try for yourself, the amazing **Dinosaur Invasion**, Kiddies **Fancy Dress Parade** and so much more!

All funds raised during the event go directly towards covering costs and subsidising activities, keeping prices as low as possible.

You can help us by **Buying Raffle Tickets**, there's always a chance you can bag the £250 1st prize –

watch out for our sellers outside local shops at the weekends in June. Could you **Volunteer for an hour or two?** It makes a huge difference and helps everyone enjoy the day. You can pick the activity and time you can spare on our new volunteer booking page (links on our website and Facebook page).

You'll find a leaflet with this delivery giving more information on what's on and when on the day.

Lastly, I'll get in an early **thank you** to the dozen or so people who have put the Fun Day together this year. The best way you can thank them, is to turn up on 5th July and have a great time.... See you there!

Doug Overett

MVP Chair



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

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

Scarecrow Trail

The theme of this year's Scarecrow Trail will be '**Mortimer's Gone Potty!**' We are inviting all new and regular makers to use their old plant pots in a fresh creative challenge for this highly popular annual event.

Scarecrow makers can fashion anything they like – so long as it includes



flowerpots; there will be an assortment of prizes in categories such as the 'Children's and Adult's Favourites', 'Funniest', 'Most Eco-Friendly,' and 'Best Newcomer'. Villagers are invited to put their thinking pots on and early planters are welcome to stake their ideas already by emailing scarecrow@mortimervillage.org.uk.

As usual, the organising team will try to help avoid a repetition of ideas, so don't hesitate to let them know if the seeds of inspiration have already taken root!

MVP have agreed an arrangement with the Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council to co-ordinate a collection point for spare pots, and to mass recycle them afterwards. This will be in the **garden area at the back of the library**. Anyone can deposit pots there and any makers are welcome to help themselves for free. Access is available Monday, Tuesday and Thursday between 9:30am and 5pm.

Why not join the 2 thousand followers of the Mortimer Scarecrow Trail Facebook page, or catch up with what's happening via the Mortimer Village Partnership website to keep informed.

The event will run during the autumn school's half term, from **Saturday 25th October to Sunday 2nd November 2025**.



Get planning and go potty!

Image credits to unknown photographer – Settle Flowerpot Festival 2023

Other MVP Activities

In March our annual **Spring Clean** once again resulted in a large pile of waste, in support of the National Keep Britain Tidy Campaign. Whilst it's disappointing to see litter left behind by some, it's truly uplifting to see 50 to 60 volunteers give up their time to help clean up. Over 200 people expressed their thanks on Facebook – we hope some of you will join us next year!

In April, we welcomed **Victor & Albert** to St. John's Hall for a hilarious musical performance. Plenty of laughs and a few drinks at the bar made it a night to remember.

Coming in September – a brand-new event especially for Wine Lovers – **Pour My Bluff**. Keep an eye out for more details!

MVP Affiliate News

Mortimer Baby and Toddler Group



This term-time, weekly group is very much appreciated by our regulars, and new families alike – here's what they have to say:

"My daughter loves coming to play with all the other girls and boys and with all the selection of toys."

"I have been attending toddlers with my own children, and children I look after for many years now. The children love interacting with new friends, and enjoy the vast variety of toys. The singing at the end is a firm favourite!"

"My daughter loves coming, she has made some great friends and it has really helped with her confidence, I also love it as I get to catch up with other parents."

We like to vary toys and activities so there will always be something which appeals. We tailor activities to seasonal trends and events, especially to reflect what's happening around the village.

Bzzzzzz!

Louise and Amanda would like to big up our fabulous team of volunteers, without whom, we couldn't run. **THANK YOU - Jade, Wendy, Caroline, Catherine, Jacqui and the two Annes.**

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 Crafting Group

We are a group of people who meet up twice a month to create our various crafts. We make items that we donate to the West Berks Hospital, and since February this year we have made and donated 5 quilts and 11 blankets. These were delivered to the West Berks Hospital in April, for which we received a grateful thank you.

In addition to quilts and blankets, we also make fabric bags for the hospital that are used for possession bags and driver bags. This brings a bit of colour to the families and patients.

We also make small fabric shopping bags which we sell for a small fee. These funds help us to buy more resources.

There is a small subscription charge to our members but rely greatly on any donations of wool and fabric. If you would like to give a donation, or join our group, then please come along to one of our sessions. They run on the **1st and 3rd Friday of each month between 13:30 – 15:30** and are in the Methodist Church Hall on West End Road.

We will be hosting a table at the Fun Day on 5th July, so please come and see us and maybe buy a raffle ticket or a bag 😊

Mortimer & Burghfield Toy Library

Mortimer and Burghfield Toy library has been in existence for over 20 years and in fact Beki one of the original founder members has returned to the fold and is volunteering once again. A glutton for punishment one could say! Recently two new enthusiastic volunteers, Lou and Amy joined the Toy Library family too.

Toy Library is like Christmas once a month (**4th Saturday of month 9:30am - 11am** Mortimer Methodist Church Hall). You can, for the minimum fee of £20 per annum choose up to 15 toys grabbing whatever you like, play with them and then bring them back and start over. It's basically like having an almost free shop and it's a terrific way to reduce landfill waste from discarded toys and packaging. It's a great way to test out which toys children are ready for or really interested in, without having to buy them. There is also an online catalogue to browse through.



Our main challenges are threefold - firstly finding enough volunteers to maintain and improve service, secondly increasing our membership numbers and lastly promoting the Toy Library service.

As a community project, we get to meet parents, carers and of course the next generation in infancy. A real pleasure. The best time to join Toy Library is when you've had your first baby, so you can benefit from the range of age appropriate toys as they grow.

So pop in and say hello - you won't regret it, or contact us on

Facebook https://www.facebook.com/groups/668562119970290/?locale=en_GB

Mortimer Methodist Church

Recent installation of solar panels: Over the past couple of years, the church has actively encouraged its members to become more environmentally conscious—through actions, words and worship.

The vision for our Solar Panel Project was to install 40 panels and 2 batteries. During implementation, we had to switch to a three-phase supply and adjust the system configuration to meet the supply requirements. The project was funded collectively by church members, friends of the church, The Greenham Common Trust and others.

On a good day, when our batteries are fully charged, the solar energy generation can keep the lights on throughout the dark evenings. The primary motivation behind this initiative was to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and contribute electricity to the grid. Our aim is to reinvest any income earned from exporting electricity to enhance our facilities and maintain hall rental fees at a reasonable level. However, exporting electricity presents challenges for churches, as they are classified as businesses and subject to lower export rates compared to domestic users. This autumn, we hope to transition to a rate comparable with the domestic tariff.

Ultimately, this project seeks to inspire both our congregation and the wider community to embrace solar energy and reduce the burning of fossil fuels for electricity generation

Bench: The newly installed Eco-Bench on Drury Lane, in the Burial Ground hedge, is a space provided to sit, pause and discover peace.

Burghfield Gardening Club

Incorporating Mortimer Gardening Club since 2022

Hello fellow gardeners.

Why not come along and meet like-minded people? We have an illustrated talk every month see below for the next few months details. Our meetings are held

every 3rd Tuesday in the month. Talks are on a variety of subjects to cater to the needs of all our members.

For as little as £4.00 (guest fee) or £25.00 (membership per annum) both of which include a cup of tea/coffee and biscuit, I feel sure you will have an enjoyable evening at a very reasonable cost.



Doors open @ 7:45 pm and talks start at 8pm at St. Oswald's Church Hall, Abbey Park, Burghfield Common, RG7 3HQ

A bonus being that we often have plants for sale at very reasonable prices, so a chance to fill those spaces in the garden at prices from as little as £2.00.

Each month we have a different competition, details on our website, the winner receives a £5 garden voucher, and we hold a monthly raffle with seasonal plants as raffle prizes.

In addition, we arrange visits to different gardens especially during the spring/summer months car sharing between members. Plus, an annual coach trip for the entire club.

Talks 2025:

Jul 15th Carolyn Foster. 'Extending the season in the border'.

Aug 19th Everett Leeds, British Clematis Society. 'Clematis through the seasons'.

Sep 16th Ailsa Claybourn, Naturalist. 'Gardening for wildlife and wildlife in the garden'.

Oct 21st Richard Rickett, Editor of BeeCraft Magazine. 'The amazing honey bee'.

Nov 18th Paul Sievers, retired GP and photographer. 'A photographic look at Kew Gardens through the year'.

Dec 16th Kerry Thomas, Mad Hatter Floral Design. 'Floral Christmas arrangements'.

We are affiliated to the RHS with an annual free admission visit for the entire club. The most up-to-date information can be found on our website <http://bdhs.co.uk>

Do hope we see you at one of our meetings in the future.

Mortimer West End Village Hall

This year our ever-popular Family Treasure Trail and Woodland Walk will be held on **Sunday 20th 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 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 mwevhall@gmail.com or 0118-970-0001.

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 & District Annual Show

The planning for this year's produce show on the Saturday 23rd August is well underway, and our traditional schedules will be available in local stores and businesses very shortly. You can also find it online on the MVP Website page (go to the calendar and find our entry on 23rd Aug) and our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/mweshow>

This year we have also done something slightly different and produced a compact version of the schedule which you will find with this Newsletter delivery. Please do have a look through, and hopefully you will find something of interest in there that will entice you to enter.

Our show includes exhibits for vegetables, fruit, flowers, handicrafts, photographs, artwork, baking and fun stuff for kids; there really is something for everyone. Entries to the show are welcomed from anyone within the neighbourhood and beyond, you don't have to be a resident of Mortimer West End. If you prefer, you can just come along in the afternoon to admire the work of others. Teas, homemade cakes and other refreshments will be on sale throughout the afternoon.

We look forward to welcoming both entries and visitors to the show on the August Bank Holiday **Saturday 23rd August** at **Mortimer West End Village Hall**.

Doors are open for entrants between 8:30am - 10:45am and then after judging, the Show opens fully at 2pm.

The MWE Show has been part of the village community since 1902 and wouldn't run without the hard work of the dedicated committee group and our helpers – for which we are always looking for additional volunteers. Also, as with many things, the cost of providing the Show is ever increasing and we are always open to donations to help keep the show tradition as part of the village. If you feel you can help in any way, please get in contact, via the Facebook page, or you'll find contact details in the directory at the end of the Newsletter and in our schedule.

We very much look forward to seeing you in August.

The Hurst Singers

The Hurst Singers are going from strength to strength in 2025. This year we started off with some professional tuition by singing teacher Rachel Scarlett to get us in good voice for the year ahead as we started learning our new pieces. After a

few weeks more practice, we sang some of them at the Mortimer VE Day Beacon Lighting in May – a beautiful evening, but really cold for the voices and our poor pianist's fingers!



We have our main **Summer Concert** on **19th July** at St. John's Church, Mortimer. In the hope of a fine summer's evening, we will be serving wine and strawberries before the concert included in the price! The week before, we are also performing at a church fundraising evening at St. Mary's Church Burghfield on 12th July (look out for their publicity and website for details St. Mary's Burghfield - A Church Near You).

We rehearse on Thursday evenings in St. John's Hall, Mortimer and welcome enquiries from prospective members. Or become a Friend of the Hurst Singers so we can have your email address to receive regular updates.

Thehurstsingers@gmail.com

Mortimer Local History Group

Our group continues to flourish, with very good attendance and interest at our monthly meetings (on the third Tuesday of the month at the Methodist Church Hall). Our January meeting was the annual Christmas party, held at Mortimer West End village hall, with a free 'bar' provided by the committee, and a sumptuous spread provided by members. We enjoyed a quiz, part local history, part general knowledge, and part lateral thinking!

In February we were delighted to welcome Dave Stubbs, a retired police officer and volunteer at the Thames Valley Police Museum in Sulhampstead, and he gave us a very informative and entertaining talk, with artefacts from the museum. One of our members has done a lot of research into the Nickless family in the 19th century, and the far-flung adventures of some of the siblings, and so in our March meeting we learnt about what she had discovered, and were very pleased that three members of the 21st century family were able to join us.

In April we looked back at some recent Mortimer, national and international history in the form of photos from Mortimer's lockdown in 2020, and many of us had forgotten some of the poignant details of that time. Because of the lockdown we were unable to celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE Day in the usual style, but villagers were encouraged to decorate their houses, and have a tea party in their front gardens, and again all this was documented in photos. The Berkshire Family History Society is holding its 50th anniversary conference at Wokefield Place on the theme of the Victorians, and has invited us to have a stall. We'll exhibit display boards about our 19th century drinking establishments, churches, schools and station, and the boards will have a second outing at the Fun Day on 5th July.



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, as well as 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!). This month we will be having a group BBQ, and (as in previous years) at Christmas we will organise 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 have been because they've spent all the time chatting!



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, visits to local music concerts and our regular trips to Newbury and Basingstoke shops are keeping our volunteers working hard.

Because of demand we have started another Sainsbury's shopping trip on a Wednesday afternoon. And with the advent of spring, we have introduced regular

trips to local garden centres. Both these new services and our regular Newbury shopping run often have seats available. If you are interested in a door-to-door transport service on any of the above trips please contact us, we would be happy to provide all details and welcome you onboard.

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

Mortimer & West End Cricket Club

Our merger is now complete and the season has started with sunshine and a great deal of enjoyment at both our West End and Fairground venues. Three teams are competing in the merged Thames Valley Leagues, with our 1st XI so far performing strongly after two wins from their first three games. Our 2nd and 3rd XI have had a more indifferent start but we have been able to field three teams every Saturday and one each Sunday.

Our Junior programme continues to grow and we now coach up to 75 boys and girls, from the age of 5 to 15 on Thursday evenings at West End, and have a full fixture list at U9, U11, U13 and U15. U9 fixtures start soon at The Fairground on Sunday mornings.

Now that we are combined we plan to improve both facilities, gradually over time. If you are interested in joining as a player, umpire or scorer please get in touch. For juniors, simply come along on Thursdays to West End and take a look at our set up, where our aim is to make sure everyone enjoys their cricket in an inclusive environment.

For more information please see our website: <https://mandwecc.play-cricket.com/home>

Have a great summer - we shall!

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 cleaned the courts.

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 £3.00 per hour per court - at any time. The price for



non-tennis club members is £6.00 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. We have recently welcomed some new members but always have room for more.

Our most popular session is on Monday from 10am to 11am but the club does have other slots to choose from on Tuesday evenings, some Friday evenings and Saturday mornings.

To contact us, please email info@mortimertennisclub.co.uk or call Simon on 07768 743197.

Burghfield Allotment Club

Our Burghfield Produce Show is back for a third year. Come and join us on **9th August** at 2pm in the **Methodist Church Hall Burghfield Common**, entrance is free or come and exhibit your produce from 8:30am to 10:45 am for 50p an entry. The show is bigger than last year, with an extended marquee, more categories, more prizes and more cups to be won. We are delighted to be sponsored by Burghfield Parish Council and many local people and businesses.

We had a lovely afternoon last year, with the sun shining and visitors enjoying tea and cakes outside as well as appreciating the 175 entries. The Bric-a-Brac was very popular as was the plant stall and it was great to hear people swapping gardening stories and meeting up with old friends.



Royal British Legion Women's Section Mortimer

Do you know, men can join, we aren't just an organisation for women.

Do you know the Women's Section raises money for the families and dependents of those who have served in the Armed Forces and Voluntary Aid Societies.

Do you know the Women's Section donated:

- £500,000 to enable UK Invictus Games competitors to have their families, friends and loved ones alongside them in the 2023 and 2025 games.

- £150,000 to sponsor a home-from-home room at each of the six RBL care homes for families of end-of-life care veterans. Each room will contain everything from emergency toiletries to charging points, colouring books to poetry. Giving families space to be together or to just take time out to gather themselves.

This is just two examples of how we make a difference. There are so many other ways we support our beneficiaries.

These are our 'Wheelie Girls' who participated in a sponsored 80 laps of the Methodist Hall for VE Day 80, raising over £600 so far.

Do you always donate for an RBL poppy in November? Ever wondered how your money helps? Ever wanted to do more throughout the year? Why not come to a meeting and see how you can help?



We meet in the Methodist Church hall on the last Thursday of the month at 2 for 2:30pm. We do outings, talks and activities plus tea and cake obviously! No connection to armed forces required. Why not join us at our next meetings:

Thursday 26th June for a talk on glass fusion

Thursday 31st July for flower arranging

Just turn up at 2-2:30pm...or call Tina on 07852557733 for more details.

Mortimer Dramatic Society

The Mortimer Dramatic Society is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year. The very first production in 1952 was 'Painted Sparrows' and we have been going strong ever since.

We are very proud that the society is still successfully entertaining local people and we will be celebrating with members and friends of the society this summer.

The next production is '**Ladies Day**' which is a heart-warming comedy drama set in Yorkshire. Work, love and life are just one, hard, slog for the fish-filleting four women. But their fortunes are set to change when one of them finds tickets to Ladies Day at Royal Ascot the year it relocated to York. The play will run on **3rd, 4th, 10th and 11th October** so look out for the sale of the tickets nearer the time.

The society always welcomes new members, whether you are interested in treading the boards or supporting in one of the many roles back stage, you will get a friendly welcome. Please contact us on info@mortimer-dramatic.org for more information.

Friends of Mortimer Library

It's hard to believe that The Friends of Mortimer Library (FoML) came into existence just over a year ago. Set up by a small group of local villagers with the aim to promote our own village library and encourage people to visit and use it.

Since inception we have held a programme of talks and have welcomed a wide variety of fascinating speakers. We began with Stephen Grant and Meredith Piper, continuing with Tania Crosse, Katie Hannawin, David Evered, Peter Driver, Lord James Arbuthnot and our latest speaker, Mike Rogers. All local people with a multitude of skills and willing to support us. Our next talk will be in August and will be a walk down memory lane looking at how the Millenium was celebrated by the children at St. John's Infant School - a talk definitely not to be missed!

We are grateful for the support of the enthusiastic group of villagers who regularly attend our events but new faces are always welcome. For details of our next talk and other future events follow us on Facebook and/or check out our website at www.mortimerlibraryfriends.org or join our mailing list by emailing info@mortimerlibraryfriends.org.

The library, under the leadership of Michelle, has become a lively community hub, with ever-changing books and a wide variety of activities and services for all ages – why not pop in and take a look.

We shall be at Mortimer Fun Day. Come and have a chat and find out more about what we do and discover the amazing services available at your library - we look forward to seeing you there.

South Berks Concert Band

2025 has been a busy year so far for the band, with a hugely successful Spring Concert in Tadley back in March. Since then we have played our first outdoor events of the year. We performed at Bradfield Mayfayre once again on the 5th May, and on the 8th May we were fortunate to be involved in a VE day event at Victoria Park in Newbury. Later in the summer we will be playing at Alton, Henley and Shaw-cum-Donnington near Newbury.

Our next formal concert is on the **12th July at St. John's Church in Mortimer**, and this time we are doing something quite different: a joint concert with TA-DAS, a ladies choir who are based in Mortimer itself. There will be lots of great music including by Coldplay, the Beatles and many others.

More information is added regularly on our website and social media pages. We hope to see many of you there – tickets will be available from The Baobab, Weller's Fruit shop in Burghfield or via TicketSource.



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

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

TA-DAS Instagram: [Mortimer ta das](https://www.instagram.com/Mortimer_ta_das)



Mortimer Bellringers



When do we ring the bells?

As you walk through the village, you may hear the bells being rung and wonder what the reason is. We do, of course, ring before the morning church service on a Sunday and for other major church events. In addition, we practice on a Monday at one or other of the towers to attempt to improve the quality of our ringing.

In terms of other occasions, we ring for National Events, most recently the celebration of VE Day. That time we rang at 6:30pm at the request of the national body which aimed to have bells rung all around the country at the same time and we later rang for the local event. Then of course, there are the local celebrations, Fun Day on the Fairground etc.

As you might expect we rang at all three churches for the funeral of Her Majesty the Queen, and for the coronation of King Charles.

This is all over and above visiting ringers, training courses and, of course, for weddings.

So, the bells get a lot of use, and we rely on our band of skilled volunteers to enable this fine tradition to carry on.

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.

Belle Canto Trio



We were delighted to help to raise nearly £2000 for Macmillan Cancer Support, with a VE Day concert of Forties Favourites. Burghfield Village Hall had been beautifully decorated for the occasion, and the spread of canapés, sandwiches, cakes and scones was mouth-watering! Our concert at Speen was also very successful, with a large appreciative audience, and an equally beautifully decorated church, while the residents of the three care homes in which we sang also enjoyed listening to, and joining in with, the old songs.

If you missed hearing our Forties Favourites, then you have one more chance – at midday on **Saturday 5th July** at **Shinfield St. Mary's**. Entrance is free, but

donations to the church are welcomed at the end.

We are currently preparing an Italian programme. So, if you think an Italian themed evening could be fun, please get in touch at info@bellecanto.uk

As you will see from our photo, we have a new member in the trio. We were sorry to say goodbye to Helen at the beginning of the year, but we are pleased to welcome Daphne to our line-up.

Mortimer Rainbows

Mortimer Rainbows have been doing all sorts of interesting things this term, as we work towards our **Take Action** theme award.

Take Action is all about building the skills to make a positive difference. Whether it's to the people you know, your community or the wider world. Girls have been:

- learning about recycling with a talk from West Berks Council
- learning what is a charity is and the sort of things they care about
- visiting a charity

For VE Day we went "*back in time*", learning dances, creating shelters, cracking codes and mending bags.

As well as badge work, girls play games, make new friends and have lots of fun.

We now have places available for next term, so why not go to the Girl Guiding website and register your child.

At Mortimer Rainbows we are **looking for leaders** to help at our unit so why don't you drop us an email at mortimer.rainbows@hotmail.com and we can tell you more about our unit and how you may be able to help.

Mortimer 2012 WI

Once again this May Mortimer 2012 WI has adorned our village with bunting and posters about bees supporting the National WI's campaign SOS for Honeybees which seeks to highlight the plight of honeybees and indeed all pollinators. May 20th was World Bee Day! This is just one of many WI campaigns, probably the most famous being Keep Britain Tidy. Last year we voted to campaign on Dental Health Matters; this campaign aims to turn the spotlight on the lack of access to dentists and to push the government to make fixing NHS dentistry a priority.

So you see we are not all about jam and cakes however do not worry we will be at the Fun Day selling our deliciously tempting homemade cakes!

If you would like to join us we meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Community Centre opposite the Horse and Groom. You will be assured of a very warm welcome. We can be contacted on

Mortimer2012WI@BerkshireWI.co.uk.

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	Sheena Cartright	gsl@1stbands.org
1st Mortimer Brownies	Rachel Ryan	firstmortimerbrownies@hotmail.co.uk
1st Mortimer Scouts	Neil Johnson	neilpjohnson@btinternet.com
Age Concern	Tina Tomlinson	tubbs66.tb@googlemail.com
Alfred Palmer Memorial Field Trust	John Hannawin	trustees@alfredpalmermemorialfield.org.uk
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Burghfield & Mortimer Volunteer Bureau	Erle Minhinnick	bureauvolunteer@gmail.com erleminhinnick@gmail.com
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Burghfield Bowls Club	Gary Belcher	garybmob@gmail.com
Burghfield Bowling Club	Charlie Gray	charlie.gray67@gmail.com
Burghfield Gardening Club	Brian Uttley	brianuttley@yahoo.co.uk
Burghfield Santas	Gareth Green	gareth.green@gmail.com
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Greening Mortimer	Clare Stafford	greeningmortimer@gmail.com
Mortimer & Burghfield Toy Library	Dorothy Harfleet	dorothy.harfleet@sky.com
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Mortimer 2012 WI	Patricia Boud	mortimer2012wi@berkshirewi.co.uk
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Mortimer Bell Ringers	Nick Munson & Elaine Perkins	mortimerbellringers@gmail.com
Mortimer Community Centre	Adrian Smith	adrsmith@gmail.com
Mortimer Crafting Group	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 Walking Group	Graham Bridgman	gb@atpps.com
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Mortimer West End Village Hall	Heather Sims	mwevhall@gmail.com
Royal British Legion Womens	Tina Tomlinson	tubbs66.tb@googlemail.com
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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

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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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